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Japan

Diet Plenary Session Interpellations Continue

Housing-Related Tax Breaks Ruled Out

OW2601110093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1018 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Tuesday ruled out housing-related tax breaks in the pump-priming measures planned by the government for later this year. Miyazawa told the plenary session of the House of Representatives that such a step would be discriminatory against have-nots.

Calls have been mounting from both the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and opposition parties for the planned economic-stimulus package to include housing-related tax breaks.

The premier's remarks contradicted those made earlier in the day by Economic Planning Agency (EPA) chief Hajime Funada, who said such a tax break would provide a quicker cure for the economy than income tax cuts.

UN Seat, Tax Cut Discussed

OW2601155193 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 26 Jan 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said that he is not considering revising the government's interpretation of the Constitution regarding the right of collective defense. The government has been saying that the exercise of the right of collective defense violates the Constitution. Mr. Miyazawa made these remarks when he was speaking in the Diet during interpellations in the upper and lower houses on the policy speech he gave last 22 January.

[Begin recording] [Tomio Yamamoto, upper house member of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]] Rice really does symbolize Japan's traditional culture. The protection of this staple food is the lifeline of the nation. Moreover, rice paddies play an important role in preserving the nation's ecology. Taking these things into account, Japan cannot accept the idea of replacing whole nontariff trade barriers with tariffs, because this would result in a liberalization of the Japanese rice market.

[Miyazawa] GATT Director General Dunkel's proposal for tariffication without exception is well written from the viewpoint of coping with trade subsidies, but it deals unfairly with importing countries' positions. Japan is asking for a revision of the Dunkel plan, focusing on this point. The Uruguay Round talks are entering the final stage, but we have several Diet resolutions which urge the maintenance of the nation's self-sufficiency in rice. I would like to maintain Japan's basic policy in coping with future negotiations. [Passage ommitted on questions by Japan Communist Party's Mitsuhiro Kaneko, and on Miyazawa answers regarding the Sagawa Kyubin scandal]

[Keigo Ouchi, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party] The international community has criticized Japan for its stance in avoiding international duties, using the Constitution as a pretext. In particular, the government has said Japan has the right of collective defense but it refrains from exercising that right. This is an unreasonable attitude, to deny a national right. I believe that debates on the Constitution should not be regarded as a taboo, and that the government is supposed to positively discuss how Japan can contribute to the international community within the framework of the UN Charter. I would like to ask the prime minister's opinion on this point.

[Miyazawa] As a matter of course, Japan has the right to a collective defense, which is allowed to each nation by international law; however, exercise of the right is limited by Article 9 of the Constitution. I think that the government has been refraining from military activities overseas from a realistic viewpoint, in order to avoid any chances of being involved in overseas wars again. [end recording]

Prime Minister Miyazawa thus stressed that he has no intention of revising the government's stance to rule out exercise of the right of collective defense. In connection with proposals for revising the UN Peace Cooperation Law, Chairman Ouchi questioned if Japan could qualify to become a permanemt member of the UN Security Council [UNSC] without unfreezing its ban on participation in UN peacekeeping forces [PKF]. Mr. Miyazawa replied to the question by saying that he does not see a direct connection between permament membership in the UNSC and participation in PKF. On the other hand, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe noted that participation with UN Forces would be desirable when Japan becomes a permanent member of the UNSC, stating as follows: Under the UN Charter, the permanent members of the UNSC have the right to participate in the UN Committee on Military Affairs. Taking part in UN peacekeeping forces is not a qualification for being a permanent member, but doing so is common sense.

When Mr. Minoru Mizuta of the Social Democratic Party asked about the possibility of an income tax cut, Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi reacted negatively to the proposal, saying: Even if the government cuts income taxes at this time, the public is more likely to save than to consume. In this case, the tax cut decision would not reach the objective of boosting the economy. The issuance of deficit-covering bonds to carry out the tax cut will leave the root of the trouble to coming generations. This is an irresponsible attitude. It is very difficult to cut income taxes without having a surplus of revenues.

Miyazawa on UN Peacemaking Force

OW2701065193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0619 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 27 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Wednesday suggested prudence in supporting the creation of a permanent U.N. peacemaking force to maintain peace and order in the world.

Miyazawa made the statement in answering questions from Naohiko Okubo, vice chairman of Japan's second-largest opposition party Komeito that the new U.S. Administration of President Bill Clinton has hinted it will support the creation of a permanent U.N. peacemaking force.

Miyazawa said, "A permanent U.N. peacemaking force has not been set up yet. Even if the (the United Nations) establishes one, U.N. member countries must sign a special accord on it."

The prime minister said Japan will wait to see what steps the U.N. intends to take on the issue and will maintain close talks on the subject with the United States.

On January 21, Madeleine Albright, an academic and the next U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee the administration is witnessing the best chances of creating a permanent U.N. Peacemaking force and strengthening U.N. peacekeeping operations in regional conflicts.

Article 43 of the U.N. Charter stipulates that all members of the United Nations, in order to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, undertake to make contributions to armed forces, and facilities in accordance with a special agreement or agreements.

Following questions from Okubo, Ryohei Adachi, a member of the opposition Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), asked Miyazawa how he felt about a proposal by U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali over the presence of U.N. peacemaking forces in areas of regional strife.

Miyazawa replied Japan will consider whether to participate in the peacemaking operations with regard to Japan's war-renouncing Constitution if Butrus-Ghali's proposal is accepted by U.N. member countries.

The U.N. secretary general proposed last June to set up U.N. peacemaking and war-preventive forces to cope with regional conflicts arising from the end of the cold war.

On prospects for Japan-U.S. relations, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said the government does not expect policies toward Japan of the former administration of George Bush to change under Clinton.

Watanabe, who is also deputy prime minister, said Japan will also continue holding close talks with the United States on the massive U.S. trade deficit with Japan.

On political reform, Miyazawa told Okubo that it would be "most favorable" to introduce a system of single-seat constituencies rather than the current multi-seat constituencies.

He said single-seat constituencies will allow elections to be centered on a party's policies as parties would only be allowed to register one candidate in one constituency.

In addition to single-seat constituencies, Miyazawa said the government has asked parliament to deliberate on a package of comprehensive political reform bills in the current 150-day ordinary Diet session that began January 22.

Miyazawa said the ruling Liberal Democratic Party is hastily compiling the bill to submit it to the current Diet session. The bill includes tight limits on fund-raising by lawmakers while extending public subsidies to political parties.

More on Miyazawa's Replies to Okubo

OW2701125493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1217 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 27 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Wednesday hinted that Japan will be cautious of moves to create permanent U.N. peacemaking forces as a means of keeping international order in the post-cold war era.

He was replying to questions from Naohiko Okubo, a senior member of the opposition Komeito party during the plenary session of the House of Councillors.

Miyazawa said, "U.N. peacemaking forces have not been ever formed. Even if (the United Nations) establishes one, U.N. member countries must sign a special accord on it."

Miyazawa told Okubo, vice chairman of Japan's second largest opposition party, that Japan will wait to see what steps the United Nations will take. He said Japan will maintain close talks on the subject with the United States.

Okubo questioned the prime minister on the issue in reference to a January 21 address by Madeleine Albright, the next U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, on the future strengthening of U.N. functions.

Albright said in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the administration is witnessing the best chance of fulfilling the United Nations' original mission.

Article 43 of the U.N. Charter stipulates that all members of the United Nations must help the cause of world peace by contributing armed forces, and facilities in accordance with a special agreement or agreements.

But the article on the setting-up of U.N. permanent peacemaking forces did not come true from the creation of the United Nations as the defunct Soviet Union and the United States started the cold war shortly after the 1945 end of World War II.

Apart from Okubo, Miyazawa took questions from five opposition members. They were Ryohei Adachi of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), Hiroshi Tachiki, a senior member of the Japanese Communist Party (JCP), Kazunobu Takai of the Democratic Reform Party (DRP), Sadao Fuchigami, member of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), and Yukio Aoshima, representative of the Niin Club.

The DRP has been renamed from Rengo Sangiin, an affiliate political body of Japan's largest trade union confederation, Rengo.

Replying to questions from Fuchigami, Miyazawa expressed concern over a call to introduce a levy for tankers and other vessels wanting to pass through the Strait of Malacca.

He said countries using the strait should be taken into consideration, adding that a surcharge would exert a greater impact on international marine transport.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed urged countries using the strait to share the cost of rescuing ships and fighting pollution after two Japanese-chartered tankers collided off the mouth of the strait last week.

Brushing aside a charge by Tachiki that the dispatch of Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to Cambodia violates the Constitution, Miyazawa said the government has gained broad public backing for Japanese peacekeeping operations in Cambodia.

A law approved in the Diet last June allows the government to send SDF personnel abroad to join U.N. peacekeeping missions.

A total of 700-member SDF corps have worked in Cambodia since October, the first Japanese ground troops to be deployed overseas since World War II.

On political reform, the prime minister urged parliament to deliberate on a package of comprehensive political reform bills in the current 150-day Diet session that began on January 22.

Miyazawa said the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is hastily compiling the bills to submit them to the current Diet session. The bills include tight limits on fund-raising by lawmakers while extending public subsidies to political parties.

On economic issues, Miyazawa said he is reluctant to give way to calls by opposition parties for drastic income tax cuts to put the nation's faltering economy on track.

He said the fiscal 1994 budget is large enough to stimulate the economy through public investment, saying it was a "considerable" amount and up 9.5 percent from the fiscal 1992 national budget, including a supplementary budget.

Upcoming Financial Talks With U.S. Announced

OW2701044093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0405 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Washington, Jan. 26 KYODO—Top Japanese and U.S. financial officials plan to meet in Switzerland this weekend for the first Japan-U.S. high-level financial talks since the inauguration of President Bill Clinton's administration, international financial sources said Tuesday.

The sources said the meeting will be held between Tadao Chino, Japanese vice finance minister for international affairs and Lawrence Summers, who is a nominee to become a U.S. treasury undersecretary for international affairs.

They will exchange opinions on the world financial situation and the financial policy of their countries and discuss the schedule and issues for a meeting of the financial ministers and central bank governors of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations, the sources said.

Summers has yet to be approved by the Senate as treasury undersecretary for international affairs.

MITI on Big Three's Move Against Imports

OW2601105393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1027 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—A senior Trade Ministry official expressed strong concern Tuesday over Detroit's move to seek penalty tariffs on imported automobiles on grounds of dumping.

"It signals a dangerous trend toward protectionism," said the official, who declined to be named, adding, "it also reflects the (U.S. automobile) industry's expectations on the Clinton administration to implement protectionist policies."

THE NEW YORK TIMES reported Monday the "Big Three" U.S. automakers intend to seek punitive duties on all imported cars and charge that Japanese and European car manufacturers are violating the U.S. antidumping law.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] official warned that a move to file dumping charges against Japanese and European automakers will bring no benefits to either the U.S. industry or consumers. The ministry has so far declined official comment on the report.

Japanese automakers regarded the U.S. move as a message to the Clinton administration seeking a stern external policy. The new U.S. Government disclosed plans to boost tariffs on minivans by 10 times to 25 percent.

The Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association dismissed as groundless charges that Japanese automakers are selling their cars on the U.S. market at prices below production costs. Japanese-made cars account for 30 percent of cars sold in the U.S. market, which totaled 8.21 million vehicles in 1992.

Tokyo Reacts to U.S. Car Dumping Charge

OW2701034393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0328 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 27 KYODO—Japan will appeal to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) if U.S. automakers take legal action to seek punitive duties against car imports, a top Japanese trade official said Wednesday.

The official, of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), made the remark while commenting on reports from Washington that the American Automobile Manufacturers Association is considering such action.

The official expressed concern that the United States appears to be on a collision course with Japan and Western Europe over automobile trade.

He said that if U.S. automakers act to have punitive duties imposed on car imports, Japan will appeal to a GATT panel to fight the action.

The potential legal action involves an antidumping petition that foreign automakers are violating U.S. trade laws by selling cars for less in the United States than they charge for the same cars in their home markets.

The official denied that Japanese automakers are dumping their products in the United States, saying they have repeatedly raised their export prices in accordance with changes in the yen-U.S. dollar exchange rate.

He said he suspected that the U.S. automakers are testing the policy stance of the new administration of President Bill Clinton by suggesting the possibility of legal action.

The official said U.S. dumping charges would be totally unacceptable, noting Japanese carmakers had set their fiscal 1993 voluntary curbs on exports to the United States at 1.65 million vehicles, unchanged from fiscal 1992, despite signs of recovery in the U.S. auto market.

More Reaction to U.S. Move

OW2701050193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0420 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 27 KYODO—Japanese automakers reacted coolly Wednesday to a move by U.S. automakers to prompt the U.S. Government to slap punitive duties on all imported cars.

An official of one major Japanese automaker said U.S. automakers are probably seeking "announcement effects," or a preemptive move by foreign makers to satisfy American automakers before the case is brought before the government.

"It's doubtful they will really take action," the official said.

"We have not committed any wrongdoing in the U.S. market, and I don't think their criticism (of Japanese automakers) stands to reason," the official said on condition of anonymity.

The big three's lobbying group, the American Automobile Manufacturers Association (AAMA), said Tuesday it is considering legal action to seek punitive duties on all imported cars because it believes foreign makers are selling their cars at unfairly low prices.

Officials at General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler Corp. said, however, they have not reached a decision on whether to file an antidumping suit.

"The U.S. move is apparently aimed at appealing for government protection and ultimately putting pressure on Japanese automakers to raise prices," one Japanese auto industry official said.

THE NEW YORK TIMES first reported on the antidumping case in its Tuesday edition, quoting an unnamed federal official as saying U.S. automakers hope to file their complaints at the Commerce Department within two or three weeks.

The proposed action would be the largest case of its kind, covering almost all of the nation's car imports worth 45 billion dollars a year, the daily said.

Removal of U.S. Bases in Okinawa Urged

OW2701095293 Naha NHK Television in Japanese 0315 GMT 26 Jan 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] The U.S. Marine Corps will begin a four-day live-fire training exercise today at Camp Hansen training ground in Kin-cho. The exercise is the first for this year. It is also the first time for the U.S. Marine Corps to conduct live-fire training for four consecutive days. Reformist groups staged protest rallies this morning in Kin-cho, saying the four-day training would further intensify U.S. live-fire training exercise.

One group began a protest rally at 0800 on a hill in Igei district, which is near the impact areas, with about 100 labor union members participating. The rally began with a protest speech by Zenshun Arakaki, chairman of Goken-Han-Anpo [Prefectural People's Council To Defend the Constitution and To Oppose the Security Pact]. He said that Okinawans expected the reduction of U.S. forces because of a power shift to the Democratic administration of President Bill Clinton. Arakaki said, contrary to such expectations, the first live-fire training for this year is about to be conducted for four days for the first time and this will worsen things. Arakaki then called for the unity of labor union members to protest the exercise.

The U.S. Marine Corps fired about 6,400 rounds of ammunition in last year's live-fire training exercise, which is a record high. The exercise has strengthend its nature as a training for actual warfare. The protesters called for immediate suspension of all military exercises and removal of military bases. Today's live-fire training exercise will start at noon.

Probe Into Nuclear Exports to Iraq Suggested

OW2601113093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1056 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Japan suggested Tuesday it will investigate whether Japanese companies were involved in Iraq's nuclear development program prior to the Persian Gulf crisis.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said it is possible Japanese companies exported items for use in Iraq's nuclear development program before a trade embargo was imposed in the aftermath of Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"I don't think this is the case but first we must confirm," Kono told a regular news conference.

The Italian head of a U.N. nuclear inspection team said Monday in Baghdad that several Japanese corporations have been involved in Iraq's nuclear development program. Mau Izio Zifferero stopped short of identifying the companies and did not mention what the Japanese companies supplied to Iraq.

Steelmakers Sign Export Pact With Russia

OW2701110893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1055 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 27 KYODO—Japan's four major steelmakers including Nippon Steel Corp. said Wednesday they have reached basic agreement with Russia to supply 400 million dollars worth of natural gas steel pipes and related construction machinery.

Shipments are to begin in the second half of this year.

The accord with Russia's state-run natural gas maker Gasprom is part of a deal worth 700 million dollars, which includes 100,000 tons of seamless steel pipes, officials said.

The other three Japanese steelmakers are Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd., NKK Corp. and Kawasaki Steel Corp.

Last September the four Japanese steelmakers signed a contract with Gasprom to export 300 million dollars worth of steel pipes.

Hayashi Against Tax, Discount Rate Reductions

OW2601025093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0210 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi on Tuesday reiterated his opposition to an income tax cut and lowering of the official discount rate despite mounting calls for such measures from various sectors.

Hayashi, speaking at a regular press conference after the morning cabinet meeting, said neither he nor Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has an income tax cut in mind.

Miyazawa fueled speculation about a tax cut Monday when he said in the Diet that he would closely monitor the nation's economic conditions and will not hesitate to take flexible measures.

The prime minister's remark came in response to demands from opposition parties that he cut income tax.

Concerning calls for an official discount rate cut, Hayashi said he will continue to watch the effects of past reductions of the Bank of Japan's key lending rate. The rate, last lowered in July, currently stands at 3.25 percent per annum.

The finance minister said he is also opposed to setting up a vehicle to purchase stocks to jack up Tokyo share prices, but he said he has "many ideas in mind" about the stock price issue.

"It's better not to do anything, but it also depends on whatever the conditions are," he said.

Hayashi also commented on the scheduled establishment Wednesday of a debt-liquidating corporation to reduce the amount of real-estate-related bad loans carried by financial institutions.

"It's not possible to resolve all of the problems at once, but it's better (to have such a corporation) than having nothing."

He said he does not know how much of the banks' bad debt the corporation initially plans to take on.

Referring to an overnight plunge of the U.S. dollar against the yen, Hayashi said the fall was triggered by the dollar's depreciation against the German mark and the yen was pushed up along with the mark, with some time lag.

The dollar opened Tuesday in Tokyo at 123.65 yen, down 1.40 yen from Monday's close.

New Policy Allows Banks To Report Losses

OW2601161493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1531 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 27 KYODO—In an unusual bid to prevent a possible financial crisis, Japan's monetary authorities will switch from their traditional policy of keeping banks from reporting losses to help them weather the battering inflicted by the collapse of the "bubble" economy, financial sources said Tuesday.

The sources said the Bank of Japan (BOJ) and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) have decided to end the rule against reporting losses, a taboo imposed on the industry by the authorities, who have never allowed a bank to go bankrupt.

The policy shift comes amidst worries that banks, as in the past, might dump their stock holdings to cover losses related to massive bad loans in order to comply with the no-loss policy in their 1992 reports covering the fiscal year which ends March 31.

The BOJ and the MOF believe such stock sales by banks, which hold more than 40 percent of all listed stocks, would cast an additional shadow over the already beleagured Tokyo stock market, risking crisis for the entire financial system of the country.

The move, the sources said, will give badly-needed breathing space to the hard-pressed banks at a time when they are saddled with nonperforming loans which soured after the collapse of bubble-era asset inflation.

Loan-loss reserves set aside to deal with the snowballing bad debt were mainly responsible for a 37.4 percent plunge in pretax profit of Japan's 11 major commercial banks in the first half of the fiscal year that ended on September 30.

With much of the writing off of such debts still to be carried out, the banks expect continuous dismal results for the entire financial year, forecasting a plunge in profits of as much as 30 percent.

The sources said the move is targeted at less competitive trust banks and minor institutions, which are much more likely to suffer losses, rather than commercial banks with nationwwide networks.

These weaker institutions are believed able to weather the current crisis only if allowed to report losses in the current fiscal year.

The sources said that under the bailout package, banks which have incurred losses will be required to fully disclose the state of their operations to avoid confusion among depositors.

If depositors still panic and rush to withdraw their deposits, the central bank and the ministry will hold a special press conference to vow full support for the ailing institutions in order to eradicate depositors' qualms.

If all such measures prove futile, and a financial crisis looms, the central bank will move to extend special loans to the cash-hungry institutions, the sources said.

Report on Leak of Secret Document Denied

OW2701050493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0441 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 27 KYODO—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) denied Wednesday a newspaper report that copies of a secret BOJ document detailing results of the central bank's regular survey of a major commercial bank were leaked to some private institutions.

"That's impossible," said Koichi Takada, head of the central bank's bureau that supervises regular surveys of commercial banks.

The ASAHI SHIMBUN, one of Japan's three major nationally circulated newspapers, reported Wednesday that copies of a document on Mitsubishi Bank have circulated among several financial institutions.

The document, prepared on the basis of a regular survey conducted in August and September 1990, touches on Mitsubishi Bank's merger strategy and refers to one trust bank and one major commercial bank as possible merger targets.

The newspaper did not identify the names of the two banks.

The central bank inspects commercial banks regularly, usually once every two to three years, to determine the bank's financial soundness.

A Mitsubishi Bank spokesman said, "It is better for us not to make any comment on the case at this time, because we haven't yet confirmed the fact. We don't have the document."

Further on Bank Denial of Leak

OW2701090893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0836 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 27 KYODO—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) cannot yet confirm that copies of a confidential central bank document reportedly leaked to private institutions are genuine, a senior BOJ official said Wednesday.

Koichi Takada, head of the BOJ's Bank Supervision Department, told reporters the central bank has not been able to confirm the authenticity of the copies of a document on Mitsubishi Bank's financial strategy, reportedly leaked to other financial institutions.

"I have seen a copy but we have not been able to affirm its authenticity since we have not found the original document yet," Takada said.

Earlier in the day, Takada dismissed the report of the alleged leak, saying, "that's impossible."

The ASAHI SHIMBUN, a leading nationally circulated newspaper, reported Wednesday that copies of a document on Mitsubishi Bank have circulated among several financial institutions.

The document, prepared on the basis of a regular central bank survey conducted in August and September 1990, touches on Mitsubishi Bank's merger strategy and refers to one trust bank and one major commercial bank as possible merger targets.

The newspaper did not identify the two "target" banks.

But Takada later acknowledged that an inspection officer who interviewed Mitsubishi Bank and glanced at a copy of the reported document seems to have "had the impression that it was his handwriting."

ASAHI also said information on a possible business tie-up by Mitsubishi Bank affiliate Ryoko Securities Co. and one of the big four brokerage houses was mentioned in the document.

He said he did not see any identification number on the copy, indicating the possibility that if the document proves to be genuine it could be one of the drafts written by the inspection officer and not a copy of official documents [words indistinct] in the bank.

Takada denied the possibility that the draft had been distributed outside. He said drafts are usually individually taken care of by inspection officers themselves.

Takada said he will try to obtain the controversial document from ASAHI SHIMBUN, while pursuing inquiries with officials concerned.

The central bank inspects commercial banks regularly, usually once every two to three years, to determine the institutions' financial soundness.

Mitsubishi Bank released a statement during the day saying "it is better for us not to make any comment on the case at this time, because we haven't yet confirmed the details. We don't have the document alleged to have been divulged."

Critics say the incident could spark criticism of the Bank of Japan, and suspicion of its ability to maintain confidentiality.

It is not compulsory for commercial banks to cooperate with the BOJ inspection, unlike a similar examination conducted by the Finance Ministry, but it is usually conducted on the basis of trust.

Takada said he regrets the incident and added that the central bank will continue to strictly control its information.

He declined to elaborate on whether the issue could lead to legal conflicts, saying he cannot comment on that at the moment.

Official Denies Stock Price Collapse Rumor

OW2701121693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1159 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 27 KYODO—A senior Finance Ministry official denied Wednesday a rumor circulating in the financial circles that Tokyo stock prices would plunge in February or March.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the official said, "I tried to gather any information that might endorse such a rumor. But it turned out to be groundless and there seems no need to worry about a stock price collapse."

He said corporations, in the wake of a guidance by the ministry last August, are unlikely to sell off their securities holdings to obtain cash in order to "window dress" their financial statements for the current fiscal year ending March 31.

The official also denied widespread speculation most companies will sell stocks around February and March in order to raise cash for redemption of convertible bonds or other financial instruments issued a few years earlier.

For such repayments, 70 percent of the total seems to have been already prepared, and the rest will be funded through loans from commercial banks and issuing corporate bonds, he said.

The official also said a majority of companies are expected to keep holding their specified "tokkin" money trusts and fund trusts longer instead of liquidating them.

Draft Legislation Omits Environment Tax

OW2201212593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1358 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 22 KYODO—Japan's draft environment legislation enshrines the concept of environmental and product impact assessments but does not contain the concept of an environment tax.

The draft basic environment law, a copy of which was obtained by KYODO News Service on Friday, urges the nation to pay attention to environmental considerations in promoting socio-economic activities.

The government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa plans to present the bill to the current ordinary Diet session which opened Friday for a 150-day run though June 20, government officials said.

The Environment Agency will use the draft as a basis for discussions with other ministries and agencies, but the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and the Construction Ministry are expected to continue to resist the introduction of an environment tax and specific parameters for environmental assessments, the officials said.

The extent to which the measures in the bill actually help preserve the environment could in the end depend on their impact on the economy.

The draft is based on the principle that human beings benefit from the environment in which they live and should pass it on in good condition to succeeding generations, the officials said.

It reiterates the principle endorsed by all nations at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June last year that environmentally sustainable development is necessary to make continued economic activity possible.

Oil Spill Gear to Southeast Asia Expedited

OW2701115793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1137 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 27 KYODO—The Transport Ministry will speed up the sending of oil booms and other equipment for dealing with oil spills to Southeast Asia in the wake of the tanker collision last week off Sumatra, Indonesia, ministry officials said Wednesday.

The ministry will complete by the end of March 1994 the planned installment of oil booms and chemical dispersants at specially established storage facilities in Southeast Asian nations, two years earlier than had been planned.

The installation is part of an international scheme called the oil spill preparedness and response agreed to last November by Japan, the six member nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a United Nations agency.

The agreement calls for Japan to provide oil spill equipment to the ASEAN nations over the three years from fiscal 1993, which starts in April. Japan's contribution will be financed by 1 billion yen contributions from the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation and Japan's shipping industry.

The officials said the front-loading of the plan will be made official at a meeting with the concerned parties in June after the ministry dispatches officials to the ASEAN nations to ask them to prepare for the early installation of the equipment.

The ministry also has decided to strive to have the Diet ratify as early as possible the oil pollution preparedness, response, and cooperation agreement adopted in autumn 1990 among the 137 IMO members.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa voiced his readiness to have the pact ratified as soon as possible.

"I want to consider signing of the pact more wholeheartedly," Miyazawa told a plenary session of the House of Councillors on Wednesday, while promising to expedite preparations for revising related domestic laws. Only six nations, including the United States, France, and Australia, have obtained parliamentary approval of the accord so far.

Other steps the ministry decided to take were proposals to the London-based IMO for an earlier shift by IMO members to double-hulled tankers from single-hulled ones and for development of technologies needed to secure greater safety of tankers.

Jiro Nemoto, chairman of the Japanese Shipowners' Association, told a press conference that the association will set up a special council Thursday to study medium-to long-term measures for preventing tanker-related accidents.

"We will do all we can to examine every possible problem to prevent tanker accidents. We have set this as one of the four biggest goals for Japanese shippers in the next fiscal year," he said.

The Singapore-registered supertanker Maersk Navigator caught fire and spewed oil into the sea after colliding with the unladen Sanko Honour off Sumatra near the busy Straits of Malacca last Thursday. The blazing vessel drifted for days, sparking fears of an ecological disaster.

The Maersk Navigator, chartered by Idemitsu Oil Company of Japan, was carrying nearly two million barrels of light crude oil from Oman to Japan for Japanese oil refining and marketing giant General Sekiyu K.K.

The Sanko Honour was also under charter to a Japanese company.

North Korea

Foreign Ministry Statement on 'Team Spirit' Resumption

SK2701020693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0100 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Statement by the DPRK Foreign Ministry on 27 January in Pyongyang—read by announcer]

[Text] The United States and the South Korean authorities officially announced on 26 January that they would conduct the "Team Spirit '93" joint military exercise, an adventurous nuclear war exercise, on the Korean peninsula.

The United States and the South Korean authorities have announced that they would conduct the "Team Spirit '93" joint military exercise after all, despite strong protest and opposition by public opinion at home and abroad. All the Korean people and peace-loving people all over the world cannot help but express their indignation over this.

The objective of the United States and the South Korean authorities, which have decided to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, is of a grave and dangerous nature. It is very different from their previous exercise objectives. Today, in the international arena, the cold war structure has crumbled, and the world has been moving toward reconciliation and detente. The North and South of Korea have adopted and effectuated the agreements on reconciliation and nonaggression. The Nuclear Safeguards Accord signed between our country and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] is being implemented smoothly.

At such a time, the United States and the South Korean authorities have decided to conduct the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, which they had once suspended, under the pretext of our so-called development of nuclear weapons. This is a brigandish act designed to find an excuse to maintain the U.S. forces, reject the full inspections of the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases, conceal South Korea's nuclear development, frighten our people using strength, and crush our country's socialist system to death. This more clearly shows that the U.S. ironfisted policy designed to continuously seize South Korea and occupy all of Asia has reached the stage of earnest implementation on the Korean peninsula.

The resumption of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise will aggravate the situation on the Korean peninsula to the utmost, drive it to an unpredictable state, and promote a new threat to peace in Northeast Asia.

The "Team Spirit" joint military exercise is a large-scale nuclear war exercise in which South Korea is used as a forward nuclear base and in which nuclear weapons and nuclear devices of all sorts, ultramodern military equipment, and forces which are deployed in the vicinity of South Korea and the U.S. mainland are mobilized.

The staging of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise by the United States and the South Korean authorities is an intolerable mockery and a challenge to the Korean people and the people of the world. It is a well-known fact that the United States and the South Korean authorities decided last year to suspend the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise right before an irregular IAEA nuclear inspection was conducted in our country.

The U.S. decision to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise using the unwarranted nuclear issue as a pretext, at a time when an IAEA nuclear inspection is being conducted and when it has been proven by the inspection that there are no problems, cannot be justified with any reason. Such a provocative act by the United States and the South Korean authorities proves that it was nothing but a lie and florid talk to deceive the world's public opinion that the U.S. authorities said that they respected the will and conscience of the international community. It also proves the deception of the South Korean authorities who said that they wanted national reconciliation.

The "Team Spirit" joint military exercise that the United States will stage against our Republic in collusion with the South Korean authorities is a criminal act that runs counter to the ideal and basic demand of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. This treaty stipulates that nuclear weapon-possessing states should not impose a nuclear threat on nonnuclear states.

The DPRK Government bitterly condemns the "Team Spirit '93" joint military exercise. It recognizes that the exercise constitutes a provocative act of triggering a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula, and of gravely threatening peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world.

The United States and the South Korean authorities, by staging the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, have suspended the implementation of the North-South Agreement of Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange and the Joint Declaration of Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. They have also suspended the North-South high-level talks. The United States, furthermore, cannot escape the blame for not having us perform the duties persuant to the NPT.

If the United States thinks that it can amaze or subdue our people with military pressure or by means of force, it is mistaken. Our people are a strong people who regard independence and dignity as life itself. They are a revolutionary people who are not shaken by any pressure or threat. We will never allow any act of provocation concerning the nation's dignity and the country's sovereignty.

The DPRK Government cannot but take neccessary self-defensive steps to cope with the grave situation on the Korean peninsula created by the United States and the South Korean authorities.

If the United States and the South Korean authorities start the "Team Spirit '93" joint military exercise despite our repeated warnings, they will be held fully responsible for all consequences that may arise therefrom.

The United States must free itself from its outdated perception of the Cold War era, squarely face reality, and immediately suspend the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, which is a nuclear war exercise.

The South Korean authorities must stop committing the antinational act of breaking peace and blocking reunification in collusion with outside forces.

The DPRK Government and Korean people express the expectation that the governments and people of all the countries of the world who love justice and peace pay deep attention to the grave situation which is being promoted on the Korean peninsula, take joint action with us in opposition to the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, and extend firm solidarity with our people's cause for peace and reunification in this country.

[Dated] 27 January 1993, Pyongyang

Radio Reports 'Team Spirit' Resumption Announcement

SK2701000393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2220 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] According to a radio report from Seoul, despite the strong protest and condemnation of public opinion at home and abroad, the South Korean authorities officially announced on 26 January through the puppet's Ministry of National Defense that they will stage the "Team Spirit-93" joint military exercise, beginning in the middle of this March.

As has been reported, the United States and the South Korean authorities have decided to resume this criminal joint military exercise, a test nuclear war for northward invasion. They decided to resume the military exercise in the annual Security Consultative Meeting held in Washington last October.

With their refusal to withdraw their decision to resume the "Team Spirit" war exercise despite the strong demands of our people and the peace-loving people of the world, the United States and the South Korean authorities aborted in succession the scheduled meetings in November of various joint committees to discuss and implement annexed agreements of the North-South agreement. They, furthermore, went so far as to perpetrate the criminal act of rupturing the ninth North-South high-level talks which were to be held in Seoul late last December.

The fact that the South Korean authorities officially announced the decision to stage the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise at a time when the North-South dialogue has been stalemated is another intolerable challenge to the 70 million fellow countrymen's aspiration for peaceful reunification. It is another vicious provocation against the northern half of the Republic.

The South Korean authorities came up with the nuclear inspection issue again this time in their official announcement in a bid to justify the holding of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise. This is like a thief turning on the owner.

Coming up with the nonexistent nuclear issue while threatening others with a test nuclear war is indeed preposterous. It is a provocative act that can be perpetrated only by brigands.

The facts clearly reveal that the South Korean authorities' antidialogue, antipeace, and antireunification stands are unchanging yesterday and today. The antinational elements in South Korea will not be able to escape the strong condemnation of public opinion and the judgment of history because of their criminal acts of trying to destroy North-South dialogue and to aggravate tensions on the Korean peninsula.

KCNA Reports ROK Announcement

SK2701045893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 27 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities Tuesday officially announced through the puppet Ministry of Defense that the "Team Spirit '93" joint military exercises would be staged from mid-March, according to a radio report from Seoul.

As is known, the United States and the South Korean authorities at the "Annual Security Consultative Conference" in Washington in October last year withdrew the measure of suspending the "Team Spirit" joint manoeuvres and decided to resume the criminal joint military exercise, a test nuclear war against the North, this year.

Ignoring the strong demand of our people and the world peaceloving people, they refused to revoke the decision to resume the "Team Spirit" war exercises, thus frustrating the meetings of the joint committees in charge of the implementation of the annexed agreements of the North-South agreement which had been scheduled for November and then foiling the 9th North-South high-level talks slated for late December last year in Seoul.

The official announcement of the program of the "Team Spirit" joint manoeuvres by the South Korean authorities at a time when the North-South dialogue was deadlocked is one more intolerable challenge to the desire of the 70 million fellow countrymen for peaceful reunification and malicious provocation against the northern half of the country.

In an effort to justify the joint manoeuvres the South Korean authorities raised the question of "nuclear inspection". But this reminds us of a thief crying "stop thief!"

It is the height of impudence for the South side to talk about fictitious "nuclear problem" of the other, while threatening it with a test nuclear war. It is a challenge that can be done only by brigands.

Facts clearly show that the anti-dialogue, anti-peace and anti- reunification stance of the South Korean authorities remains unchanged.

KCNA Cites Foreign Reports on South's Nuclear Aims

SK2501105093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 25 (KCNA)—The South Korean newapaper HANGYORE SINMUN January 14 said the suspicion of the nuclear arms development by the South Korean authorities was growing worldwide.

Recalling a report of THE NEW YORK TIMES January 10 that South Korea was promoting with Britain the conclusion of a contract on the extraction of plutonium which can be used as a material of nuclear weapons, the paper says this agrees with what the British daily THE GUARDIAN April 9 last year reported.

It also notes that director of the U.S. Nuclear Control Institute Leventhal and deputy director of the British nuclear fuel company Wilkinson who had visited South Korea in April last year drew attention when they said that South Korea was "trying to get plutonium necessary for the development of nuclear weapons".

The newspaper quoted an Australian nuclear military expert Peter Hayes as saying in an article titled "South Korea's Nuclear Arms Development" that "South Korea has a capacity and intention to develop nuclear weapons by using plutonium" and "in view of the nuclear technological potential obtained by South Korea since 1975, it is able to develop nuclear weapons of elementary type in nine months under extreme circumstances".

The suspicion of nuclear arms development by the South Korean authorities is thus growing worldwide and it has been reflected in the South Korean press, too. This shows that the scheme of the South Korean anti-national elements for nuclear armament against the fellow countrymen cannot be concealed any more.

Kim Il-song Sends Reply to PLO's 'Arafat

SK2301030193 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song sent a message replying to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee. 'Arafat had sent a message of solidarity supporting the method of the fatherland's reunification which the great leader presented in his New Year's address.

The reply said:

Tunis

To Comrade Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee:

I am deeply grateful for your warm congratulations and greetings on the new year and your support for our internal and external policies presented in my New Year's address.

Your positive support and solidarity for our just cause greatly encourages our people's struggle for the socialist construction and reunification of the fatherland.

I believe that friendly and cooperative relations between the DPRK and Palestinian peoples will develop further based on a doctrine of independence, peace, and friendship. I wish you and the friendly Palestinian people greater success in the struggle to restore your country's legitimate national rights, including the right to make your own decisions and the right to an independent state.

[Signed] Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK
[Dated] 20 January, Pyongyang

Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Steel Plant Employees

SK2601112493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 26 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to workers and technicians of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, three-revolution team members dispatched there and members of the "February 17 shock brigade of scientists and technicians" who had made a contribution to raising the level of automation and modernisation of production process.

They manufactured and installed many automation gauges, devices and apparatuses to reinforce and renew the whole automated production processes last year.

And they pushed ahead energetically with the work of modernisation and scientification of the operation of blast furnaces on a higher stage and paved the way for opening a new domain of the application of computers.

He also sent thanks to researchers of the sericulture institute of the academy of agricultural sciences who had developed a new disinfectant for the silkworm.

Han Song-yong Attends Steel Complex Report Meeting

SK2401031193 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Excerpt] A report meeting was held at the Hwanghae steel complex on 22 January to mark the 20th anniversary of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's guidance on preparing the complex to be a model automated unit.

Comrade Han Song-yong, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Choe Yong-nim, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice premier of the State Administration Council, and minister of metal industry; functionaries concerned; and employees and three revolutions team members of the Hwanghae Steel Complex were at the meeting. [passage omitted]

Premier Receives Reply From Libyan Committee Leader

SK2601063693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Comrade Kang Song-san, premier of the State Administration Council, received a reply message from Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab

Jamahiriyah. Comrade Kang Song-san had earlier sent him a message of sympathy on the recent air crash in Libya.

Secretary Durdah expressed in his reply gratitude on behalf of the bereaved families and himself for Kang's expression of deep regret over the accident.

KCNA Notes Upswing in Production, Construction

SK2301053293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 22 (KCNA)—The Korean working people are bringing about a great upsurge in production and construction to carry out the tasks set forth by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

The pace-setter is the coal miners.

Entering this year the daily quota is being fulfilled at 106 percent at the coal mines in South Pyongan Province which represent more than 60 percent of the nation's coal production.

Those coal mines created last year an additional production capacity of two million tons and put the equipment in full-capacity operation at the cutting faces from the beginning of the year, sharply boosting production.

A powerful increased production drive is going on at the Onsong, Saeppyol and Myongchon district coal mining complexes and other units.

The Kangdong district coal mining complex topped its assignments for the first ten days of January by 13,000 tons.

A productive upsurge has been reported from the power industry, too. The daily power output is 15 percent up on the daily average towards the end of last year.

The iron and steel works under the Ministry of the Metal Industry lifted the output of steel 8 percent, pig iron 15 percent and rolled steel 10.7 percent in the first 20 days of the new year as against the like period last year.

In this period the Kim Chaek iron and steel complex, a metallurgical giant in northern part of the country, augmented the output of steel, pig iron and rolled steel respectively 10, 17.8 and 14 percent by introducing advanced operation methods at large-size blast furnaces and converters.

Daily quotas are being overfulfilled at the Pyongyang textile combine, the Pukchang cornstarch factory, the Sariwon footwear factory and other light industrial factories.

The locomotive corps under the Ministry of Railways have reported big results in transport from the beginning of the new year. They are carrying 20,000 more tons of freight every day than the daily average in the same period last year.

Phenomenal results have been reported from the construction sites of houses for 30,000 families in the capital, a big waterway project in the western area of the country and other city and rural construction sites.

New Buildings for Academic Institute Under Construction

SK2601110493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 26 (KCNA)—New buildings of Koryo Songgyungwan are under construction in Kaesong.

Buildings nos. 1 and 2, a swimming pool, a gymnasium, a dormitory, a practice factory and other buildings will bring into shape a university district going well with the main building of Songgyungwan with a long history of more than 1,000 years.

The 3 and 4 storied building no. 1 will have 240 large and small rooms, including an auditorium, lecture rooms, laboratories, and chair rooms. /

The Korean-style architecture will be well applied to the green tile-roofed building to give a strong national characteristics and gracefulness.

The library, the postgraduate course, the publishing house, etc. Will be housed in building no. 2 of modern architectural style.

The gymnasium, the swimming pool, the practice factory, dormitory and the mess hall will also be built in peculiar styles.

Songgyungwan which has been a pride of the nation as a time-honored educational heritage of Korea will make its more modern and grand appearance as a university of light industry.

NODONG SINMUN Comments on Events, Issues

Lauds Socialism's 'Single-Hearted Unity'

SK2701140493 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 26 Jan 93

[NODONG SINMUN 26 January editorial: "Single-hearted Unity is the Life of Socialism of Our Own Style"]

[Text] Socialism of our own style is vigorously advancing with greater vitality under the leadership of the party and the leader. In his New Year's address the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song presented the revolutionary slogan, "Let all the party, all the people, and all the Army unite as one and consummate the socialist cause," and appealed to all of the party and people to perform new, heroic struggle exploits. This revolutionary slogan has firmly grasped the hearts of all party members, the working people, and soldiers of the People's Army who have risen up in the new year's battle, and it is vigorously encouraging and inspiring them into the general march to glorify socialism of our own style.

The slogan of single-hearted unity presented by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song is a great struggle slogan which clearly elucidates the road on which our socialist cause can be victorious forever.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: All party members and the working people should vigorously accelerate socialist construction by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and mass heroism, holding aloft the slogan, "Let all tbe party, all the people, and all the Army unite as one mind and consummate the socialist cause to the end." Thus, they will further exalt the superiority of our socialism.

Socialism means unity, and unity is synonymous with socialism. The socialist cause begins with unity and is advanced and consummated by the might of single-hearted unity. Historic lessons show that when the party, the people, and the Army are firmly united, socialism can be victorious. If they fail to do so, socialism will be frustrated.

The essential superiority of socialism lies in that all members of society share joy and sorrow, helping and leading each other, with the party and the leader as the center. Without single-hearted unity, socialism's high organizational spirit and disciplinary character based on collectivism—which are important characteristics of socialism—and its superiority exalted in the political, economic, and cultural lives cannot be contemplated.

Single-hearted unity are the watershed and lifeline that determine success of the socialist cause. The way for the people's glorious life and for their victory lies in treasuring and safeguarding unity. Our party's slogan of single-hearted unity reflects the firm determination and will of the party, the people, and the Army to firmly unite and thus advance our revolution along the single road of chuche.

The revolutionary essence of this slogan lies in this: Firmly rallying around around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is brilliantly inheriting the chuche revolutionary cause, the entire party, all the people, and all the Army are determined to smash the imperialists' counterrevolutionary offensive with a revolutionary offensive and to struggle to the end, holding aloft the banner of socialism.

It is the summation of our people's protracted struggle for socialism that the victorious road of socialism lies in single-hearted unity. Our people have advanced the socialist cause victoriously by fighting along an unprecedentedly arduous road. That we were able to be victorious on this road of struggle, on which we had to break through formidable seas of fire and on which we had to rise like the phoenix from a land of ashes where everything was destroyed, was because of the invicible single-hearted unity of the party and the people.

If not for this single-hearted unity, our proud struggle history, which has invariably defended the banner of socialism for scores of years, could not exist. Our socialism, which has amazed people all over the world, is a great product of the bloody struggle of the Korean communists for unity. It is a proud tower of success erected on the strength of the might of single-hearted unity.

The single-hearted unity of our party, Army, and people has reached a new high stage. There has been no period before during which the might of our single-hearted unity has been so strengthened as today when the entire party has been firmly rallied around the party Central Committee, all the people are upholding their leader [yongdoja] with loyalty, and all the Army is firmly safeguarding and defending the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander.

Passed on from generation to generation, the great unity and cohesion persists. Our socialism demonstrates its prestigious characteristics as an independent fortress unshakable in the grave vortex of history, and our Korea is a strong bastion of socialism. There is no other assets more valuable, no other revolutionary weapon more powerful than this indestructible unity which a promises bright future for our socialism.

We should make the work of strengthening the single-hearted unity of our revolutionary ranks the fundamental issue determining the fate of the revolution and continue to intensify this work.

Firmly consolidating single-hearted unity among the party, the people, and the Army provides a decisive guarantee for carrying out the colossal task in socialist construction and for fully displaying the superiority of the socialism of our own style.

We have a very difficult and colossal struggle task in socialist economic and cultural construction. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War. In this significant year, we should vigorously accelerate socialist construction and lay an even more solid foundation for independent economy. At the same time, we should make an epochal advancement in improving the people's living standard and achieve new development in all areas of cultural construction.

In order to brilliantly fulfill today's unprecedented colossal struggle task, the entire party, all of the people, and all of the Army should throw themselves into the struggle to kindle the flame of revolutionary upsurge. To do so, we should firmly consolidate our political and ideological might, the might of single-hearted unity.

Our single-hearted unity is the source of the miracles and exploits of chuche Korea that creates something out of nothing, removes a rugged mountain at a stroke, and is the banner of our people's heroism.

When all the party members and working people struggle heroically, holding aloft the slogan of single-hearted unity, our socialism will be as strong as a fortification, and the cheers of socialist victory will echo powerfully in all sectors of the revolution and construction again.

The imperialists and reactionaries have taken advantage of the frustration of socialism in some countries and are unprecedentedly strengthening their maneuver to isolate, suffocate, and demolish our socialism. Whether one keeps the dignity of socialism depends on whether one adheres to the banner of single-hearted unity. The imperialists are most afraid of the might of the people's unity, might of faith, and might of will.

Our firm single-hearted unity in one mind and one will around the party and the leader is the most powerful weapon for smashing with a revolutionary offensive any counterrevolutionary aggression. It is also a banner of struggle that changes an adversary situation into a smooth one.

When the entire party, all the people, and the entire Army are firmly united around the great party and the leader, any alien, reactionary ideological element cannot infiltrate us, and no one can rashly infringe upon our national dignity and right to independence.

Only by strengthening the single-hearted unity of the revolutionary ranks can we adhere to our just revolutionary line and principle to the end and firmly defend the valuable gains of socialism achieved with blood and tears.

All functionaries, party members, and working people should make the greatest effort to strengthen political and ideological unity and the cohesion of our revolutionary ranks, upholding the party's slogan urging us to consummate the socialist cause with single-hearted unity of the entire party, all the people, and the entire Army.

More important than anything else in strengthening the might of our revolutionary ranks' single-hearted unity by all means is that all party members, working people, and the People's Army officers and men hold deep in their hearts the great honor and happiness in upholding the great leader [suryong] and the great leader [yongdoja) as the center of their unity.

The greatness and invincibility of unity is the greatness of the leader [yongdoja]. Firm unity around the great leader [yongdoja] is invincible forever; however, unity without the center cannot overcome all historical trials.

Those countries where capitalism is being rehabilitated are undergoing severe trials. Unity and cohesion of the society and nation are being destroyed, and the army is divided into many parts because they could not put up an outstanding leader.

Our people exhibit great dignity in upholding the excellent ideologist, theorist, politician, and parent at the top of the party, the state, and the Army. This is an honor beyond comparison for our people, and the invincibility and solidity of our single- hearted unity and prosperous future of our fatherland and revolution depend on it.

We should have great dignity and pride in upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has made both literary and military accomplishments and is are both loyal and filial, as the center of the unity and leadership as well as the supreme commander of the revolutionary armed forces. Also we should constantly glorify the honor of chuche Korea which is advancing in single-hearted unity around the leader [yongdoja].

When all of our party members, working people, and People's Army soldiers bear deep in their hearts the greatness of the party and the leader and uphold the party center with a pure conscience and sense of duty, our single-hearted unity will be further consolidated and a new turnabout will be made in the struggle to consummate the socialist cause.

To further consolidate the might of our revolutionary ranks in single-hearted unity, all party members and working people should have a firm faith and will in consummating the socialist cause. The stoutest unity and cohesion is the unity based on strong revolutionary faith and will that would rather break than bend. When the people have firm ideology and absolute faith, the revolutionary ranks will never collapse ideologically, and the unity will never break.

The strength of revolutionary unity is the strength of faith and will. Our people are revolutionary people who never give up their faith in socialism, despite any pressure or threats. They are heroic people who, the more challenges and obstacles they face, the more highly they uphold the red revolutionary banner, the socialist banner, to continue their advance.

Our people are firmly united in the single faith to share our destinies with the socialism of our own style and in the invincible fighting spirit of believing that as long as we have the seasoned leadership of the party center, there is no obstacles that we cannot overcome. This is the proud trait of our society in single-hearted unity. We should continuously glorify this great revolutionary trait in socialist construction.

All party members, working people, and People's Army soldiers should always be resolute fighters who can overcome all obstacles with invincible fighting spirit, filled with optimism and faith in certain victory. They should also be the fortress and shield that defends and protects the socialism of our own style.

When all the people are filled with the absolute faith that the socialism of our own style is the best, the firm will not to concede by even one inch, and the resolution and determination to share their destinies with the party, which has prepared the benevolent chuche socialist fatherland, our single-hearted unity will display greater might in implementing the socialist cause.

In order to effect a new upsurge in the socialist construction with single-hearted unity, it is necessary to establish more thoroughly the revolutionary trait that the entire party, all the people, and the entire Army act as one under the unitary leadership of the party center.

The might of the unity is the might of organization and discipline. The perfect unity of ideology and will, in which all party members, working people, and People's Army officers and men uphold the party center's unitary leadership and act as one at the party's decisions and directions, is our single-hearted unity.

We should establish even more firmly the party's guiding system in the entire party and society and should firmly guarantee the unitary ideology and the unitary leadership, upholding only our party's ideology and leadership in all sectors of the revolution and construction.

All functionaries, party members, and working people should demonstrate to the utmost the iron might of our society's single-hearted unity by unanimously launching the nationwide march to greet the 40th anniversary of the victory in the war in a great festival of winners, upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year's address.

Our revolutionary armed forces are playing the key role in defending our single-hearted unity today as they have in the past. Because there are iron-clad revolutionary armed forces that assume loyalty to the leader [yongdoja] as their first life [cheil saengmyong], our party's organizational and ideological foundation is firm, and socialism of our own style is being firmly defended.

By thoroughly establishing the revolutionary trait of going through fire and water to accomplish to the end the respected comrade supreme commander's order, soldiers of our People's Army should strengthen and develop our army into the party of the leader [suryong] and of the party [as heard] forever.

An important issue in strengthening the might of the single-hearted unity of our revolutionary ranks is to further enhance the militant function and role of party organizations at all levels.

Our party always put forward the strengthening of single-hearted unity of the revolutionary ranks as the key task of party building and party activities. By consistently adhering to this task, our party achieved solid and vigorous unity and cohesion.

In view of today's situation and of the enormous tasks in socialist construction facing us today, no party work is more important than to strengthen more firmly our single-hearted unity. All party organizations should deepen party works by paying attention to strengthening the might of single-hearted unity in compliance with the demand of the development of the revolution. In particular, they should more substantively carry out the work with the people and the work with cadre members, party members, and the masses.

Party organizations should intensively explain and infiltrate the essence of the slogan on single-hearted unity put forward by the great leader, as well as the lofty intention contained in this slogan, into party members and workers so that they treasure, defend, and protect our unity, like their own lives.

The point to which we should direct our particular strength in party organizations' activities on strengthening the single-hearted unity is to deeply implant a firm faith to glorify the tradition of our revolution on unity generation after generation in the hearts of party members and workers.

Ever since they raised the slogan of loyalty, "Let us unite with the great Comrade Hanbyol!" the genuine Korean revolutionaries and people have carried out a long arduous struggle for unity.

The slogan, which the Korean communists always raised high on the death-defying battlefield, on the scaffold, and in the fierce struggle against counter-party and counter-revolution elements, was the only slogan—the slogan on unity and cohesion.

The banner of unity and cohesion flying in the van of our revolutionary march was stained with the blood of revolutionary martyrs who defended the center of unity with their lives by cherishing an indomitable revolutionary spirit.

Party organizations should make all party members and workers realize how the tradition of our unity and cohesion was created amid arduous struggle and how brilliantly this tradition has been inherited in the era of today's Workers Party. Thus, they should make all party members and workers tenaciously defend the unity and cohesion of our people, who are firmly rallied behind the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, with the kind of spirit cherished by anti-Japanese revolutionary martyrs who upheld the leader of the revolution by sacrificing themselves and by the heroic fighters who defended the party, the revolution, and the fatherland by blocking the enemy's fire with their own bodies.

Having achieved indomitable unity and cohesion of the entire party, all people, and entire Army, with the great leader, is the most valuable victory in our revolution. Because of the great unity and cohesion, our people always feel secure, and the future of our fatherland and revolution is endlessly bright.

Let us all vigorously accelerate the new movement with the party's slogan, "Let us accomplish the socialist cause to the end in firm unity and cohesion among the entire party, all people and the entire Army!" Thus, let us more highly demonstrate the dignified appearance of the chuche fatherland and might of socialism of our own style.

Never Renounce Revolution

SK2701103793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 27 Jan 93

["Ours Are Revolutionary People Confidently Advancing Along Their Own Road"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 27 (KCNA)—The Korean people guided by the great leader and the great party will never renounce their revolutionary faith and principle but vigorously advance along their own road for the completion of the socialist cause without the slightest concession, declares NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

It quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"Ours are not a people who will renounce their revolutionary faith and principle yielding to any pressure or threat, nor are they a people who will abandon their own road and follow another road because some wind blows."

The article says:

Today the Korean people are dynamically advancing with their own faith and principle, convinced of the invincibility of the cause of Korean-style socialism.

The immovability of their revolutionary faith is fully demonstrated, first of all, in that they believe only in the party and the leader under any circumstances and steadfastly defend the revolutionary line advanced by our party.

Through the serious lesson from the collapse of socialism in various countries, they have keenly felt how great and wise the guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il for our revolutionary cause is and are firmly convinced that as long as they follow the party and the leader, only victory and glory are in store for them.

The Korean people take the party's decision as their own decision and will and fully display unexampled heroism and self-sacrificing spirit, ready to go through fire and water, in fulfilling it.

The steadfastness of their revolutionary faith is fully manifested also in that they adhere to the socialist principle and the working-class stand in all fields of the revolution and construction.

They are forcefully advancing along the road of revolution under the leadership of our party, holding high the banner of socialism under an unprecedentedly complicated and acute situation in which the U.S-led imperialists are directing the sharp edge of their offensive to them.

This clearly shows the unswerving revolutionary stand of the Korean people who have invariably followed their own road in disregard of what road others walk and what they say.

The immovability of their revolutionary faith is illustrated well by the fact that they do not yield to any pressure or threat of the imperialists by determinedly facing them.

To answer the intensified counterrevolutionary offensive of the enemy with a revolutionary offensive is the traditional fighting spirit of the Korean people.

The Korean people are a revolutionary people who do not have illusion about imperialism nor compromise with it. As imperialism remains on the globe and the reactionaries' moves to put down the independence of the popular masses continue, unshakable are the resolution and will of the Korean people to advance under the banner of the anti-imperialist struggle.

South 'Nation Seller'

SK2501075393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0023 GMT 25 Jan 93

[NODONG SINMUN 25 January commentary: "A Mean and Shameful Behavior of a Nation Seller"]

[Text] The South Korean authorities are showing strange movements at the same time with the appearance of the new U.S. administration. According to a report, recently the South Korean Foreign Ministry said that it will further strengthen cooperative system with the United States to check North's nuclear development and promote South-North dialogue.

Especially, the South Korean authorities established a policy to spread consensus within the United States to continue to station the U.S. forces occupying South Korea and to flexibly deal with the U.S. request on sharing defense expenditure. The fact that the South Korean authorities are currying favor with the new master is ever so dirty.

What is ridiculous is that by talking about holding back the North's nuclear development and so on, the South Korean authorities advertised as if strengthening relations with the United States is necessary in easing tension on the Korean peninsula and creating an atmosphere for reunification.

Everyone knows that the United States and the South Korean authorities are carrying out the commotion of North's nuclear development which does not even exist, are straining the situation on the Korean peninsula to the extreme; and is turning North-South relations to the starting point of confrontation which existed before the period of the adoption of the agreement.

In reality the unreasonable measure of the United States and the South Korean authorities, who talked about the North's nuclear suspicion and decided to enforce the

"Team Spirit" joint military exercise, put the North-South dialogue in a freezing situation and lay down a grave barrier in implementing the agreement.

Currently the people at home and abroad are demanding that the plan to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise be withdrawn at once. While conspiring with the outside force, the South Korean authorities are continuing confrontational and war maneuvers such as enforcing the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise. They are propagandizing as if this is for easing tension and creating an atmosphere for reunification. This is a ridiculous nonsense which is like a prostitute boasting of her chastity.

For the South Korean authorities to describe the U.S. imperialist aggressive forces occupying South Korea as a war deterrence power; spread consensus within the United States to continue to maintain the U.S. forces in South Korea; and to flexibly deal with the request by the United States to share the defense expenditure, are rousing the nation's indignation.

Moving toward the road of independence is a trend of the times that cannot be prevented. Because of the adoption of the North-South agreement on the Korean peninsula, a firm guarantee to move toward national reconciliation, unity, and reunification was provided by the North and South. The North and South agreed not to fight with each other and resolve the Korean issue by the strength of the nation. Therefore, under this condition there is no longer any need for the U.S. forces to remain in South Korea.

Nevertheless, the South Korean authorities cannot even tell the U.S. imperialist aggressive forces to leave. They are rather saying that they will maintain the U.S. forces occupying South Korea and to achieve this will all the more provide expenses to maintain U.S. forces by receiving support from the Americans. This is a very mean and shameful behavior of the traitors who are crazy for nation-selling flunkeyism.

At a time when the new administration has set sail in the United States, the South Korean authorities are all the more wagging their tails in front of the master calling for cooperation with the United States and so on. The behaviors of the Democratic Liberal Party's regime predict that, as was in the case of the fifth and sixth republics, the new regime which will set sail in South Korea will follow in the steps of the pro-U.S. flunkeyist nation selling- policy.

The main force of history is the popular masses. At a time when the popular masses are all calling for national independence, the future of the South Korean regime which is trying to move toward the road of depending on outside force cannot by any means be bright.

'Fatal' 'Soap Bubble Economy' in South

SK2701054393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 27 Jan 93

["South Korean Economy Suffers From Fatal Disease"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 27 (KCNA)—A radio of South Korea, quoting an official announcement of the authorities concerned, said enterprises which went banckrupt for financial difficulty from January to November last year totalled more than 9,600 in South Korea.

NODONG SINMUN today says it is inevitable that the South Korean economy, a colonial dependent economy, is running downhill to bankruptcy in the international economic fluctuation.

The reality shows that the South Korean economy is not an economy which is "growing" as advertised by the rulers but a "soap bubble economy", the analyst notes, and stresses:

The South Korean economic, public and press circles find the reason of the massive bankruptcy of enterprises in the structural contradictions of the colonial contract economy and the anti-popular economic policy of the "Democratic Liberal Party regime".

The rulers of the "Sixth Republic" who will step down in February are now loudmouthed about economic "growth" and "stability". But this is nothing but a false propaganda for covering up their crimes in driving the economy into a catastrophic crisis.

During the recent "presidential elections" the ruling and opposition "candidates" tried to win the people's favor by promising them to become an "economic president" to save the economy from the catastrophe. This revealed how serious the South Korean economic crisis and the hardships of the people in their life were.

The "president-elect" of South Korea is now blaring that he will "resolve" the economic difficulties. His "economic commitments", however, will not boost the ailing South Korean economy but will remain "rosy commitments" as his predecessors'.

Criticizes 'Imperialists' on Human Rights

SK2501051293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448 GMT 25 Jan 93

["NODONG SINMUN on Doctrine of 'International Protection of Human Rights'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 25 (KCNA)—The so-called doctrine of "international protection of human rights" advocated by the imperialists is a sophistry intended to conceal their sinister purpose of meddling in the internal affairs of other countries and even committing armed intervention, says NODONG SINMUN Sunday.

In a signed article titled "Reactionary Nature of 'International Protection of Human Rights'", it notes:

Raising a hue and cry over "protection of human rights", the imperialists are slandering other countries over the human rights problem.

They seek in this to abuse the human rights problem in realising their dominationist design.

In order to conceal this insidious purpose, they are bringing forward the "international protection of human rights" doctrine, claiming that "there is no boundary in human rights" and human rights "are not a matter confined to any one country". They, however, cannot deceive people with this sophistry.

However loudly the imperialists may cry for "international protection of human rights", their atrocities in infringing upon the territories and sovereignty of other countries and killing innocent people cannot be for the protection of human rights.

Their attempts to abuse the human rights problem for realising their dominationist design find graphic expression, among other things, in their "human rights offensive" against socialist countries. This is one of their despicable means of executing their "strategy of peaceful transition".

Nothing can conceal the arrogance of the imperialists and their dominationist nature, which are being revealed through the human rights problem.

South Korea

DPRK Officials Arrive for UNDP Meeting

SK2701094293 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0910 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] A three-member North Korean delegation headed by Kim Myong-ho, vice director of the Communications Guidance Bureau of the North Korean Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, arrived in Seoul this afternoon by China Airlines to attend a conference on a communications network in the Tumen River basin.

In addition to senior delegate Kim Myong-ho, the North Korean officials include Yi Song-tok, head of the joint-venture section in the Secretariat of North Korea's Administration Council, and Choe Sung-kuk, senior secretary for the North Korean Committee for External Economic Cooperation.

They will attend an international conference, slated for 29 and 30 January in Seoul under the auspices of the United Nations Development Program [UNDP], on forming a communications network in the Tumen River area. They will discuss various technical issues on forming a communication networks with communications experts from our country as well as from China, Russia, and Mongolia.

Plans for modernizing a communications network in the Tumen River area include UN construction of 10 modern port facilities in this area over the next 20 years and of a communications network in a new city with a populations of about 500,000. The first stage of this construction project is expected to begin by the end of next year.

YONHAP: DPRK Gunboats Fired on PRC Fishing Boats

SK2701095393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0937 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Beijing, Jan. 27 (YONHAP)—North Korean gunboats opened fire at a fleet of Chinese fishing boats in the West Sea causing a number of casualties around the end of last August shortly after South Korea and China normalized diplomatic relations, it was belatedly known here Wednesday.

A Western source here said North Korean naval craft on patrol in the West Sea indiscriminately shelled Chinese fishing boats in an apparent show of displeasure at Seoul-Beijing diplomatic normalization.

The source said he heard that a considerable number of Chinese fishermen were killed or wounded in the shelling. But, no exact number of the casualties were known, he added.

Chinese authorities lodged a strong protest to Pyongyang over the incident, and the issue was resolved in subsequent secret talks between Beijing and Pyongyang, the source said.

But, some rumors that North Korea's Kim Chong-il visited Beijing around last October or November to offer apology over the incident turned out to have been unfounded, the source said.

UN Envoy Urges ROK Participation in PKO Activities

SK2701100493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0914 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 27 (YONHAP)—South Korea needs to participate more actively in the U.N. Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) and the first chance may come in dispatch to Somalia, ambassador to the United Nations Yu Chong-ha said Wednesday.

He knows of North Korea-U.S. contacts between U.N. ambassadors and between private research organizations and although this may not be appropriate since the United States is the host of the global organization, Seoul believes it will ultimately help bring Pyongyang out of isolation, he said.

U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali asked all member nations to participate in the PKO troop activities in Somalia to which more than 30 countries registered their participation. South Korea did not indicate its participation.

"But the United Nations will decide on which countries can contribute what, and it is expected to ask South Korea's participation after these roles are determined," Yu said in a press conference at the Foreign Ministry.

The ambassador said it is too early to tell whether the United Nations will ask for foot soldiers, but he strongly indicated Seoul considers it, saying "we are trying to find out, too, since we would need to prepare in advance."

Yu is on a brief return visit to Seoul to report to the ministry on South Korea-U.N. relations.

Seoul proposed only financial contribution of 2 million U.S. dollars to U.N. activities in Somalia, but it said it can send up to 730 people to PKO missions comprised of military observers, medical staff and infantrymen.

U.N. request will come very soon since the meeting opened Tuesday at the United Nations to decide when PKO will take over from multinational "Operation Restore Hope" in Somalia, according to Yu.

"There is a tendency to be negative about PKO participation because of our memories from Vietnam and [words indistinct].

"But PKO is U.N.'s key responsibility. Now we need to strengthen our cooperation with the United Nations through PKO, elevate our status in multilateral diplomacy," he said.

"We will someday seek membership in the U.N. Security Council. PKO participation is a must on South Korea's resume," he said.

On inter-Korean relations at the United Nations, Yu said both sides avoid provocations and keep a rule that bilateral issues shall not be addressed at the global forum. The two missions hold contacts whenever necessary, said Yu.

North Korean diplomats are trying for wide range of contacts with U.S. officials, but the contacts are limited to between mission members and private research organizations because of Washington's firm positions on preconditions to upgrading relations with Pyongyang.

"Such contacts are inappropriate since the United States should remain as U.N. host country. But the United States will deliver its positions on what it expects from North Korea and this will ultimately bring forth Pyongyang's reform and openness," Yu told reporters.

Draft Policy on U.S. Trade Under Preparation

SK2701040893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0228 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 27 (YONHAP)—The government is drawing up a comprehensive strategy to cope with trade friction with the United States as a series of talks are expected from late next month with the new U.S. Executive Branch, government sources said Wednesday.

Working-level trade talks in late February or early March, the first since Bill Clinton became President, will discuss bilateral trade issues such as protection of intellectual property rights.

If they fail to produce an agreement at the sub-group meeting, in which the U.S. side is sure to call for stricter protective measures, Korea may be listed as a priority foreign country facing retaliatory actions, the sources said.

The United States put Korea on the watch list in 1991, saying that the protection of intellectual property rights was good, but Korea was placed on the priority watch list last year.

The Korea-U.S. Economic Council is to meet in March or April to review the Presidential Economic Initiatives (PEI) agreed by both sides early last year and financial policy talks will soon follow.

The United States might impose retaliatory measures on Korea if the third-stage financial market liberalization plan that will be finalized by March falls short of the U.S. demands.

The Economic Planning Board, and the foreign, finance, and trade and industry ministries are racking their brains for a strategy on pending trade issues.

U.S. trade pressure will be weaker for Korea than for Japan, China and Taiwan, which have huge trade surpluses with the United States, the sources said.

"We will try not to give an impression to the U.S. side in the talks that Korea is a country doing unfair trade because the Clinton administration is emphasizing fair trade," one of the government officials said.

1992 Exports to U.S. Decline

SK2701090493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0750 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 27 (YONHAP)—Korea was alone last year among countries in Asia or South and Central America in seeing its exports to the United States decline. Korean exports to the United States shrank 2.7 percent to 15.39 billion U.S. dollars in January-November from a year earlier, the Trade and Industry Ministry quoted U.S. Commerce Department statistics as showing Wednesday.

China's shipments jumped 37.5 percent to 23.89 billion dollars in the 11 months, leading the export growth rate. Taiwan boosted exports 7.3 percent to 22.57 billion dollars; Hong Kong, 5.5 percent to 9.01 billion dollars; Singapore, 13.6 percent to 10.27 billion dollars; Mexico, 21.2 percent to 32.38 billion dollars; Brazil, 13.7 percent to 7.03 billion dollars; Japan, 4.7 percent to 87.4 billion dollars; the European Community, 8.8 percent to 85.47 billion dollars and Canada, 7.5 percent to 90.28 billion dollars.

Korean goods dropped their U.S. market share 0.3 percentage points to 3.2 percent, staying in eighth place, while China's edged up one point to 4.9 percent and fifth place, outshining Taiwan.

Taiwan's share declined 0.2 percentage points to 4.5 percent and sixth place due to the export offensive by China.

China's trade with the United States totaled 30.28 billion dollars, making it the seventh largest U.S. trading partner. This compares with Korea's 28.78 billion dollars.

IMF Urges Modification of Economic Stabilization Program

SK2701041793 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Jan 93 p 9

[Text] In a drastic turnaround from its recommendation in November, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has advised Korea to move away from its economic stabilization program.

In the latest report, it proposed that Korea ease financial and monetary policies as well as expand fiscal investment as the economic slowdown in 1992 turned out more pronounced than anticipated.

A Finance Ministry official said it is unusual for the IMF to change its recommendation in less than two months.

The IMF revised its projection of Korea's economic performance for this year. It predicted that the economy will grow by 6 percent with a consumer price index of 5 percent and current account deficit of 3 billion dollars.

In November, it forecast that the economy would grow by 6.5 percent with a consumer price index of 6.5 percent and current account deficit of 4.5 billion dollars.

The IMF justified its turnaround by saying that its November recommendation was made before Korea's third-quarter GNP rate was tabulated.

The IMF had said in November that real GNP growth would be about 6.5 percent for 1992. But the Bank of Korea estimated that the 1992 GNP would be around 4 percent.

The IMF had also warned in November that "a principal risk in the current situation is the recurrence of a pattern of economic overheating followed by the need to resort once again to strong measures to cool off the economy." It had said Korea may face "economic overheating" if the stabilization program is discarded.

However, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said in its latest report that Korea "put too much emphasis on the economic stabilization program last year."

The sudden u-turn in the IMF stance has demonstrated its limits in assessing Korea's economic performance. Economic Planning Minister Choe Kak-kyu and Bank of Korea Governor Cho Sun had stuck to what the IMF recommended before bowing to public pressure for economic stimulation packages this month.

The IMF has repeatedly called on Korea to "avoid large swings in economic policies but it advises Seoul of adopting a significant swing from the previous stabilization policies," critics said.

They said government officials have "blind confidence in what the IMF had says."

The IMF said "an easing of financial policies would be warranted, if the current economic slowdown were to deepen as a result of flagging investor and consumer confidence, with inflation remaining subdued." It also added that a temporary increase in investment expenditures would also merit consideration, adding that as far as monetary policy is concerned, greater flexibility than before will be needed in implementing it in view of the ongoing changes in the financial sector.

Automobile Group Reports Increase in Car Parts Export

SK2701041893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0251 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 27 (YONHAP)—Korea exported 565 million U.S. dollars of automobile parts to 160 countries last year, the Korean Automobile Industries Corp. Association said Wednesday. The amount is up 8.9 percent from 519 million dollars the previous year.

Huundai Motor Co. shipped 93 million dollars of parts, up 12.2 percent, and KIA Motors Corp. 10 million dollars worth, up 53.8 percent. Daewoo Motor Co. exported 66 million dollars of parts, plus 1,600-cc engines for Germany, up 3.1 percent from 1991. Daewoo Engineering Products Co. posted 55 million dollars of exports of parts, mostly air compressors, up from 56.4 million dollars in 1991. Daesung Precision Co., a leading exporter of audio components, shipped 37 million dollars, down from 38 million dollars in 1991 and 42 million dollars in 1990. Mando Machinery Corp. shipped 27 million dollars worth, down from 32 million dollars in 1991.

Of total parts exports, North America accounted for 232 million dollars, or 41 percent of the total, compared with 48 percent in 1991 and 51 percent in 1990. Asian and European markets accounted for 44.1 percent, reflecting efforts of parts exporters to diversify their markets, long heavily dependent on North America, according to the association.

State-Invested Enterprises Increase Wages 3 Percent

SK2701085493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0647 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 27 (YONHAP)—Seven out of the 23 state-invested enterprises have agreed to 3-percent wage increases based on total pay in compliance with the government's effort to stabilize wages.

The seven are Korea Telecom, Korea Electric Power Corp. [KEPCO], Korea Tobacco and Ginseng Corp., Korea Agricultural Development Corp., Kuk Chong Textbook Co., Korea General Chemical Corp. and Korea National Tourism Corp.

Vice Economic Planning Minister Han Kap-su, presiding over a meeting of representatives from the state-run companies, asked Wednesday the remaining 16 companies to adopt a 3-percent or lower wage hike to lead a drive to stabilize wages in industry as soon as possible.

Economic Planning Board officials said the smooth progress of wage negotiations at such major state-run enterprises as Korea Telecom and KEPCO would help other companies settle wage talks smoothly within this month.

Government Allots Aid for Ethnic Koreans in Tajikistan

SK2701112493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0940 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 27 (YONHAP)—The government decided Wednesday on 100,000 U.S. dollars of donation to ethnic Koreans who fled the civil strife in Tajikistan and on additional aid when necessary.

A meeting among Foreign Ministry, Health and Social Affairs Ministry, Korean National Red Cross and the Korea Food for the Hungry International decided on first set of donations, to be delivered sometime next month.

More than half of 13,000 ethnic Koreans living in Tajikistan have fled to Central Asian regions to escape racial violence that erupted earlier this month. The government will pitch in part of the 100,000 dollar donation with the public sector putting in the majority, Foreign Ministry officials said after the meeting.

The officials aslo discussed long-term measures to improve the status of ethnic Koreans in the Central Asian republics, they said.

Recommendations included establishment of sisterhood ties and active business investment, the officials said.

Media Survey Examines 'Promising' Political Leaders

SK2301033493 Seoul WOLGAN CHOSON in Korean Jan 93 pp 124-134

[Article by Kwon Yong-ki on a WOLGAN CHOSON survey of political reporters in Korean print and electronic media: "A Ranking of the Top 30 Promising Politicians of the New Era"]

[Text] **Requirements of the Next Generation of Leaders**

An election is at once the citizen's judgement of the past as well as their selection for the future. Within this context, the recent 14th Presidential Election was a choice by the citizenry to end and dissolve one era of politicians, in preparation for the emergence of a new generation. It was also an opportunity that heralded the emergence of a new generation of political leaders who will lead the post-two-Kims era and the next generation; that is, those leaders who will compete for the lead on the political stage that is unfolding.

No matter how chaotic the current reality may now be termed, and no matter how much one says that pressing issues are so unmanageable as to grant no time to be concerned with other questions, a society is only able to develop when it thinks about the future, makes predictions about that future, and begins to prepare for it. In that vein, the WOLGAN CHOSON surveyed reporters from the political bureaus of various media organizations from the end of November through the beginning of December 1992 at the height of the presidential campaign on the following questions. First, who would likely rise to become the political leader of the next generation? Second, what political traits—that is, leadership qualities—would that leader need? Third, is there a need to change the current president-centered power structure?

Overall, the results of this survey were rather different than what could have been expected. First of all, Yi Pu-yong, chairman of the Democratic Party [DP], was selected as the top leader of the next generation. The margin itself was overwhelmingly large, with over two times as many votes as the second place person. This truly was worthy of being called "the birth of a star." The second place selectee was indeed a surprise as well. In second place was Yi Chol, floor speaker for the DP. In third place was Yi Chong-chan, executive chairman of the United People's Party [UPP]. Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] Assemblyman Yi Han-tong was in fourth place, while the Party for New Politics [PNP] Executive Chairman Pak Chan-chong was in fifth.

An overwhelming number of respondents when asked whether the constitution should be revised to reorganize the power structure answered that it would be most realistic to either keep the current presidential-centered system or have constitutional reform that included maintaining a presidential system. During the last election, the second and third parties within the National

Assembly either called for constitutional revision toward a parliamentary form of government, or they clearly expressed their readiness to discuss the possibility of constitutional reform. Additionally, when considering the fact that the majority power within the DLP also supports a parliamentary form of government, one cannot help but call these results surprising.

Additionally, the qualities that will be demanded from our next generation of political leaders included: "ability to attain political goals (maintenance of drive and consistency in policy)," "statesmanship and vision (world view)," "morality (trustworthiness, purity, sense of public duty)," "resolution and crisis management ability," "democratic leadership," and "foresight and insight."

In Reality, Political Reporters Also Participate in Politics

Before examining these results in more depth, it appears more in order to reveal exactly why the WOLGAN CHOSON chose to survey political reporters of various media organizations by sending out questionnaires.

In short, it is because these opinions as put forth by the political reporters in their answers have the potential to exert enormous, real influence on the dynamic composition of the political arena that will develop in the future. These media reporters constantly have their fingers on the pulse of the political world, and come directly into contact with political phenomena where and when they occur. They collect, analyze and interpret all types of information concerning politics and pass this on to the people either in print or on the airwaves. All political events are filtered through to the public by these reporters.

The influence that these political reporters have on their readers is immense. They determine which events are news and what aspects of those events are newsworthy. Although selection for news coverage relies on the head of the political bureau, the chief of the editorial department, and the particular position of the media organization, the role of collecting first-hand, primary-source information is left to first-line reporters.

Articles written by reporters in political bureaus do not merely serve the function of simply transmitting events that take place on the political scene to their readers. Political articles also serve to exert influence on politics itself. Depending on how the article is written, the solemn reality is that these articles may change the direction which a political issue is taking. This is also reflected in public opinion. Viewed in this light, it becomes evident that politicians are not the sole political players in Korean politics as political reporters participate to a certain degree in politics, and as such, they may be said to exercise political power commensurate with this. In some cases, their share of influence in a given event even exceeded 50 percent.

Of course, the perspective of political reporters and that of the populace do not always necessarily correspond. Thus there are limits to the importance of their opinions. That does not mean, however, that their influence in the political arena is diminished. If viewed by political reporters as showing great potential for becoming a leader of the next generation, that person occupies an advantageous position in comparison to other politicians. Likewise, if a large majority of the political reporters conclude that there is no reasonable chance of constitutional reform in favor of parliamentary government taking place, then this itself becomes an obstacle to the pursuit of such constitutional revision.

One additional comment to add is that most of the political reporters who responded to the questionnaire were in their thirties. Some of these reporters will rise, within a few years, to such desk-level positions such as chief and deputy chief of political bureaus. At the very least, this group will become part of the forty year old age bracket by the next elections, and judging from their position as political reporters as well as their generational affiliation, this group is expected to belong to the group which leads public opinion and exerts the greatest influence in our society.

"Ability To Attain Political Goals," "Vision"

The WOLGAN CHOSON's questionnaire was distributed and received over a ten-day period, from 27 November through 7 December 1992. A wide variety of media covering the major daily newspapers, economic newspapers, communications and broadcast companies, English-language press, and regional papers was surveyed. Included along with reporters were desk-level positions such as chiefs and deputy chiefs of political bureaus. The total number of respondents was 125.

The questions began by asking what political traits (leadership qualities) leaders in the new era would need to have. This was both an attempt to determine a general basis upon which to chose potential leaders even before attempting to commence the selection process, as well as to provide each of the respondents an opportunity to think about the standards upon which they would select the next-generation leaders. There were 11 total choices provided, among which the respondents were requested to chose 5 and list them in priority order. Of course, respondents were given the option to provide other characteristics they felt were necessary requirements for the new generation of political players. (However, no additional characteristics were listed.)

Table 1. Political Traits (leadership qualities) Required of Political Leaders in the New Era

	Ranking					
Political Traits	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**Total**
A. Foresight and insight	20	8	17	19	10	74
B. Statesmanship and vision (world view)	26	27	10	17	16	96
C. Ability to attain political goals (drive, consistency in policy)	23	18	34	16	11	102
D. Morality (trustworthiness, purity, sense of public duty)	21	30	18	15	10	94
E. Resolution and crisis management	9	19	25	18	14	85
F. Ability to employ people (efficiency and fairness in personnel management)	1	5	7	20	22	55
G. Democratic Leadership	22	15	13	12	14	76
H. Intellect (cultural knowledge)	-	-	-	3	12	15
I. Persuasiveness	-	2	1	2	5	10
J. Effort and tenacity	1	1	-	2	3	7
K. Human attractiveness (personality, looks)	-	1	-	1	9	11

The responses of the political reporters are listed above in the table. The response that received the greatest amount of first place rankings was statesmanship and vision (world view), with 26 respondents saying that this was the most important political trait that a political leader in the new era would need. Other choices that received more than 20 first place votes, in order, were: ability to attain political goals (drive and maintenance of consistency in policy); democratic leadership; morality (trustworthiness, purity, sense of public duty); and foresight and insight.

However, when one calculates the total number of votes from first to fifth place as chosen by the respondents, then ability to attain political goals receives a total of 102 votes, being the quality that the most number of respondents felt that the next era's political leader needs. After that, in order, were statesmanship and vision with 96 votes, morality with 94 votes, resolution and crisis management ability with 85 votes, political leadership with 76 votes, foresight and insight with 74 votes, and ability to employ people, with 55 votes.

"Morality" in Third and Fourth Positions

When compared with results of a similar poll taken of 111 political reporters in July 1989 entitled, "Political Leaders for the 1990s?" (carried in the August 1989 edition of the WOLGAN CHOSON), the results above are considerably different. At that time, the question was asked "What traits are necessary in political leaders?" The greatest response at that time was "honesty." In second place was drive, third place was judgement, fourth place was a sense of responsibility, and fifth place was statesmanship.

Although an elaborate explanation would be difficult since a significant portion of the choices provided were different at that time from the recent survey, morality—which could be interpreted as honesty, the first place choice at that time—dropped to third and fourth place. Also, political drive, which had been in second place, maintained its position with numerous first and second place votes, while statesmanship, which had been number five, leaped up to the number one and two positions.

Richard Nixon, who served as president of the United States and met with leaders of some 80 countries, based his book "*Leaders*" on his experiences. In this book, Nixon emphasizes that the most important trait a great leader must possess is "the ability to take a great dream and inspire the people." This incorporates several of the traits listed in this recent survey—foresight and insight, statesmanship and vision (world view), and ability to attain political goals. In his book "*The White House Office (Where The Buck Stops)*", U.S. President Truman lists "bold resolution during crises" as a prerequisite for a great leader and this is similar to the survey's listing of resolution and crisis management ability.

In view of the opinions of the two former U.S. presidents, the results of this survey can be interpreted as being considerably promising. The fact that a survey conducted three years ago listed honesty as its top condition for a leader must be seen as evidence of just how disappointed the people were with the immorality, hypocrisy, and dishonesty of politicians at that time. Our citizens today no longer merely requires morality, the basic virtue demanded not only of political leaders but also of each and every citizen. Instead they ask that political leaders in the new era possess positive and functional virtues necessary for leaders to manage the state. This new public opinion is changing the mindset of political reporters as well.

DP Assemblyman Yi Pu-yong Overwhelming First Place

Secondly, this questionnaire asked, "Name the 10 most promising politicians in the next generation according to their possession of leadership potential." Here, we were clear to "exclude Kim Yong-sam, Kim Tae-chung, Chong Chu-yong, and those that fall into the two-Kim generation of politicians." The only two exceptions were Yi Chong-chan and Pak Chan-chong, even though they ran in the 14th presidential election. We also requested that they list one political trait of the previous section as a reason for recommending that person.

We reminded the respondents to rank the politicians bearing in mind that in calculating results, 10 points would be assigned for a first place selection, nine points for a second place selection, and so forth down to one point for a tenth place selection, and that the responses would be weighted in this manner to arrive at an overall ranking. (There are, in fact, limits to polls that use this method to arrive at rankings. Professional pollsters point out that the rank-order method of tabulating results carries with it some irrational elements. However, even if the points are not weighted based on ranking, there are similar ambiguities as well. Having provided the results here in a table, it would most probably be interesting for you, the readers, to determine on your own the reliability of our method of tabulating votes.)

Table 2. Breakdown of Votes for Top 32 Politicians Named as Next-Generation Leaders

			Number of Votes by Rank											
Overall Rank	Name	Affiliation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total Points	Total Votes
1	Yi Pu-yong,	DP C	36	13	10	12	1	3	4	-	1	-	680	80
2	Yi Chol,	DP FL	4	8	7	4	7	7	8	8	3	1	336	57
3	Yi Chong-chan,	UPP EC	10	8	4	3	5	6	3	2	1	5	310	47
4	Yi Han-tong,	DLP MP	10	6	8	6	2	4	2	-	4	-	308	42
5	Pak Chan-chong,	PNP EC	10	4	8	6	2	4	2	5	3	3	306	47
6	Kim Tok-yong,	DLP MP	12	7	5	1	3	2	2	3	4	3	286	42
7	Kim Yun-hwan,	DLP MP	5	5	5	3	5	2	1	2	3	4	216	35
8	Pak Chol-on,	UPP CC	7	2	3	3	6	3	4	2	1	2	210	33
9	Hong Sa-tok,	DP S	1	5	2	4	2	3	6	2	3	1	163	29
10	Chong Tae-chol,	DP C	-	2	6	4	6	2	-	2	4	2	156	28
11	Cho Sae-hyong,	DP C	3	4	2	1	3	3	-	2	1	-	130	19
12	Kim U-chung,	Daewoo Group Chairman	1	4	3	2	4	2	-	2	-	-	124	18
13	Kim Sang-hyon,	DP C	-	-	6	5	2	2	2	2	1	1	122	21
14	Yi Ki-taek,	DP EC	2	1	3	5	-	3	3	-	1	1	118	19
15	No Mu-hyon,	former DP MP	1	2	4	1	3	1	1	3	4	-	111	20
16	No Chae-pong,	DLP MP	1	4	4	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	107	14
17	Kang Chae-sop,	DLP MP	1	-	1	4	6	1	2	1	1	5	105	22
18	Yi Hae-Chan,	DP MP	1	3	1	1	1	6	1	-	3	2	100	19
19	Kim Won-ki,	DP C	-	1	-	1	5	1	6	1	1	1	81	17
20	Kim Tong-kil,	UPP CC	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	78	14
21	Kim Chong-kil,	DP C	-	1	1	2	2	1	2	4	-	-	68	14
22	Han Kwang-ok,	DP SG	1	-	2	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	54	8
23	Yi Myong-pak,	DLP MP	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	49	8

Table 2. Breakdown of Votes for Top 32 Politicians Named as Next-Generation Leaders (Continued)

			Number of Votes by Rank											
Overall Rank	**Name**	**Affiliation**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**Total Points**	**Total Votes**
23	Kim Kun-tae,	People's Committee Chairman	2	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	3	-	49	10
25	Yi Chun-ku,	DLP MP	1	1	-	3	-	-	1	1	-	1	48	8
26	Pak Tae-chun	Independent MP	-	3	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	47	6
26	Chong Won-sik	DLP Election Committee Head	1	1	2	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	47	7
28	Choe Pyong-yol,	DLP MP	-	-	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	1	39	7
29	Chang Ki-pyo	Minsahyop [expansion unknown] Chairman (under detention	-	1	-	1	-	1	3	1	-	1	37	8
30	Yi Hong-ku	Ambassador to the UK	2	-	-	-	-	5	-	1	1	-	30	9
30	Chae Chong-ku,	DP MP	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	30	6
30	Kim Kwang-il,	former MP	-	-	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	1	30	6

[Abbreviated party positions are in order of appearance: C=Chairman; FL=Floor Leader; EC=Executive Chairman; MP=Member of Parliament; CC=Cochairman; S=Spokesman; SG=Secretary General] [Key to traits in columns listed in table [Table 3] below: A. foresight and insight; B. statesmanship and vision (world view); C. ability to attain political goals (drive and maintenance of consistency in policy); D. morality (trustworthiness, purity, sense of public duty); E. resolution and crisis management ability; F. ability to employ people (efficiency and fairness in personnel management); G. democratic leadership; H. intellect (cultural knowledge); I. persuasiveness; J. efforts and tenacity; K. human attractiveness (personality, appearance])

[Traits within slantlines are additional reasons listed by the respondents for recommending a specific individual and are listed in the original vernacular in the final column]

Table 3. Breakdown of Political Traits Cited for Choosing 32 as Next-Generation Leaders

		Number of Times Each Trait Was Cited											
Rank	**Name**	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**H**	**I**	**J**	**K**	**Additional Traits**
1	Yi Pu-yong	2	4	4	20	-	-	10	1	-	2	-	/individual's capabilities, magnanimity, ingenuousness, sincerity, progressiveness, moderate rationality, integrity, basic reform of the political system/
2	Yi Chol	1	-	6	13	2	-	4	-	-	1	-	/ingenuousness, new generation, convictions, integrity/
3	Yi Chong-chan	1	3	1	3	1	-	9	1	-	5	2	/political convictions, independence, conservative right leader/
4	Yi Han-tong	-	4	3	3	3	2	4	1	-	2	-	/organization, leadership, wide-range of human relations, economic contacts, taciturnity/
5	Pak Chan-chong	1	4	1	10	-	-	2	4	-	3	1	/ingenuousness, clarity of mind/

Table 3. Breakdown of Political Traits Cited for Choosing 32 as Next-Generation Leaders (Continued)

		Number of Times Each Trait Was Cited											
Rank	**Name**	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**H**	**I**	**J**	**K**	**Additional Traits**
6	Kim Tok-yong	3	2	3	10	5	-	5	-	1	5	-	/pure and firm, hardworking, Kim Yong-sam's progeny, moderation/
7	Kim Yun-hwan	1	2	3	-	2	3	1	1	1	3	-	/organization, political influence, ability to make friends, party position, conservative right, capabilities as a party boss/
8	Pak Chol-on	5	1	6	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	/ability to get plan things and get them done, political conviction/
9	Hong Sa-tok	6	1	-	-	1	1	1	6	2	-	2	/popular appeal, astuteness to problems/
10	Chong Tae-chol	-	3	2	2	-	-	3	1	-	-	3	/ingenuousness, moderate rationality/
11	Cho Sae-hyong	2	4	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	/superior brainpower, moderate image, reasoning, ability to form policy/
12	Kim U-chung	2	2	4	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	/economic acumen/
13	Kim Sang-hyon	-	-	5	-	3	1	3	-	1	2	1	
14	Yi Ki-taek	1	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	1	/experience, steadfastness/
15	No Mu-hyon	1	-	-	3	1	-	2	-	3	1	-	/progressiveness/
16	No Chae-pong	3	1	2	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	
17	Kang Chae-sop	2	-	1	-	4	-	1	1	-	-	1	/new TK [Taegu-Kyongsang sect] personality, cool intellect/
18	Yi Hae-Chan	1	-	1	2	1	-	2	2	1	-	-	
19	Kim Won-ki	2	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	/navigational skills, tolerance, leader from the Honam region/
20	Kim Tong-kil	1	3	1	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	
21	Kim Chong-kil	1	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	
22	Han Kwang-ok	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	/steadfastness/
23	Yi Myong-pak	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
23	Kim Kun-tae	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	/combative nature/
25	Yi Chun-ku	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Table 3. Breakdown of Political Traits Cited for Choosing 32 as Next-Generation Leaders (Continued)

		Number of Times Each Trait Was Cited											
Rank	Name	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	Additional Traits
26	Pak Tae-chun	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	/economic accomplishments, uprightness/
26	Chong Won-sik	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	
28	Choe Pyong-yol	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	/planning ability, convictions, rational mindset/
29	Chang Ki-pyo	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	/progressiveness/
30	Yi Hong-ku	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	
30	Chae Chong-ku	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	/integrity/
30	Kim Kwang-il	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	

A considerable number of respondents did not respond to this question. Some even listed fewer than 10 names, leaving the rest blank. The totals for each individual is given in table 2 above, which includes only those individuals that were among the top 30 as the remainder were not thought to hold much significance. The top 30 politicians actually number 32 as there were three individuals tied for 30th place.

Let us first discuss a few distinct characteristics of the results before moving on. First, DP Chairman Yi Pu-yong was the only person who was recommended by over half of the total 125 respondents. Eighty respondents chose him as a next-generation leader. The rest were selected by less than 50 percent of the respondents. The results are also significant in that the number of first party (ruling party) personnel is small, while the number of opposition party figures is great. Just in the top ten, there are only three ruling party figures: Yi Han-tong, Kim Tok-yong, and Kim Yun-hwan. In fact, only 10 ruling party politicians were named among the 32 listed. They include Assemblyman No Chae-bong in 16th place; Assemblyman Kang Chae-sop in 17th place; Assemblyman Yi Myong-pak in 23d place; Assemblyman Yi Chun-ku in 25th place; Chong Won-sik, chairman of the DLP Presidential Election Committee, in 26th place; Assemblyman Choe Pyong-yol in 28th place; and Ambassador to Great Britain Yi Hong-ku in 30th place.

Moreover, the top three positions in this survey are all held by opposition party figures. As such, although it may be too rash a presumption, there is a high possibility that there will be a change in regimes in the next presidential election should this trend continue. At the time of the 1989 survey, the five opposition party personalities among the top 10 were, in order, Yi Ki-taek, Pak Chan-chong, Hong Sa-tok, Cho Se-hwan, and Yi Pu-yong.

Military Figures Virtually Extinct

No less an important feature here is the fact that personalities that come from military backgrounds are in a state of virtual extinction. Among the top ten, only Yi Chong-chan is from the military. Within the top 30, there are only two others, Assemblymen Yi Chun-ku and Pak Tae-chun. Even these two have been driven down to the 25th and 26th places respectively. This cannot be discounted as an example proving that with the 14th Presidential Elections, politics dominated by civilians is taking root. For reference, the survey taken in 1989 even elicited one response from a person who stated, "I fear the emergence of a military figure due to the instability of the political situation."

Looking at the regions that the top ten selectees come from, personalities from Seoul include Yi Chong-chan and Chong Tae-chol; from Kyonggi Province comes Yi Han-tong and Yi Pu-yong; from North Kyongsang Province comes Kim Yun-hwan, Pak Chol-on, and Hong Sa-tok; from South Kyongsang Province comes Yi Chol and Pak Chan-chong, and from North Cholla Province comes Kim Tok-yong. Finally, compared to three years ago, although there is no small-numbered group of rapidly-climbing individuals, there is a good number of people who have found themselves suddenly thrust down into the lower rankings. One could easily describe DP Chairman Yi Pu-yong place in this survey as the "birth of a star." Yi rose from 10th place in the 1989 survey to a solid first place finish that puts him ahead of the second-place individual by more than a two-to-one margin. Second- place finisher Yi Chol, floor leader of the DP, leaped from 18th to 2d place. DLP Assemblyman Yi Han-tong, who shared 18th place with Yi Chol back in 1989, leaped to 4th place, occupying the position as the forerunner of the ruling party. The rise of Assemblyman Kim Tok-yong was more marked. Three years ago, he was 36th among a total of 40 individuals. In this survey, he jumped to 6th place, or 2d place behind Assemblyman Yi Han-tong in the ruling camp.

The best examples of those who "crashed" were Assemblymen Yi Ki-taek and Kim Pok-tong. DP Executive Chairman Yi Ki-taek, who was ranked second in the 1989 survey, dropped to 14th place, while UPP Co-chairman Kim Pok-tong could not even make it into the top 30. UPP Executive Chairman Yi Chong-chan, who was ranked number one three years ago, dropped to third place; yet, in doing so, was able to save face. Others whose positions fluctuated but who did not drop significantly included PNP Executive Chairman Pak Chan-chong, who ranked fifth in this survey (third in 1989); DLP Assemblyman Kim Yun-hwan ranked seventh (fifth in 1989); UPP Co-chairman Pak Chol-on ranked eighth (eighth in 1989); and DP Spokesman Hong Sa-tok ranked ninth (sixth in 1989).

Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Places Similar

Let us now discuss each of the individuals chosen here as next-generation political leaders and the reasons for which they were selected.

In first place is DP Chairman Yi Pu-yong. A total of 36 people ranked him number one. Of the 80 people who selected Yi, 13 ranked him second, 10 ranked him third, 12 ranked him fourth, 1 ranked him fifth, three ranked him sixth, 4 ranked him seventh, and 1 ranked him ninth. The total points Yi receives when these votes are weighted is 680. Among reasons cited for recommending Yi as the front-runner among next-generation politicians, the most often cited reason, given by 20 people, was morality (trustworthiness, purity, sense of public duty). Next, 10 people cited his democratic leadership. Following that were statesmanship and vision and ability to attain political goals (four respondents each). Other reasons cited included foresight and insight, effort and tenacity, and intellect. In addition to the choices provided, other traits listed include individual capabilities, tolerance, freshness, sincerity, progressiveness, moderate rationality, integrity, and his hopes for basic reform of the political system. (Refer to Tables Two and Three above. Since there were many instances where respondents did not list political traits when selecting a candidate, the numbers in the two charts do not match for each individual.)

Chairman Yi Pu-yong received overwhelming support both quantitatively and qualitatively. This is particularly evident when compared with second place finisher, DP Floor Speaker Yi Chol. Assemblyman Yi Chol was recommended by 57 individuals, receiving a total of 336 points. Thus, while Yi Chol was chosen by only 23 fewer people than Chairman Yi Pu-yong, in total points he registered some 344 points less than the front-runner. Another distinction was that only four respondents gave Assemblyman Yi Chol first place votes. In contrast, each of the persons selected that came in third, fourth, fifth, and sixth places was chosen as number one by at least ten respondents. Instead, Yi Chol was equally chosen across the spectrum of places one through ten by political reporters. The most popular reason cited for choosing Assemblyman Yi Chol was the same as that given for Chairman Yi Pu-yong—13 people cited morality as their reason for choosing Yi Chol. Other reasons listed included ability to attain political goals (six) and democratic leadership (four).

It is reasonable to say that there is no great difference between Yi Chong-chang in third place (310 points, 47 votes); Yi Han-tong in fourth place (308 points, 42 votes); Pak Chan-chong in fifth place (306 points, 47 votes), and even, with a little latitude, Kim Tok-yong in sixth place (286 points, 42 votes). Ranked strictly, the above is the correct order; however, since this survey was not conducted that strictly, but instead aimed at obtaining a general outline by targeting political reporters, it would be unjustified to assign it too much significance and insist that any one person stands out above the rest. Another interpretation could be that a stricter survey may indeed even change some of the rankings. In particular, Assemblyman Kim Tok-yong, with 12 respondents placing him first, is second only to front-runner Assemblyman Yi Pu-yong, who received 36 first-place votes.

Kim Yun-hwan, Undervalued Compared to His Actual Ability

Nonetheless, clear distinctions appear in the reasons (the candidates' leadership characteristics) the respondents gave for choosing the above four. First, Chairman Yi Chong-chan leads the other three in the area of democratic leadership (nine respondents selected him based on this), while also receiving a comparatively large number of recommendations based on his effort and tenacity (five people). Asides from those, however, Yi Chong-chan was unable to receive any evaluation worth mentioning, failing to receive even one vote for either his ability to employ people (efficient and fair personnel management) or his persuasiveness.

Although Assemblyman Yi Han-tong did not receive a single vote in foresight and insight, persuasiveness, or attractiveness, in the remaining choices, mention of Yi was comparatively evenly distributed. In the case of Pak Chan-chong, although 10 reporters valued his morality, he received a rather low evaluation for his foresight and insight, ability to attain political goals, and attractiveness (one vote for each of these traits) as well as for his resolution and crisis management, ability to employ people, and persuasiveness (not mentioned even once).

Assemblyman Kim Tok-yong was most cited for his morality (10 individuals), also receiving comparatively high marks for his resolution and crisis management, democratic leadership, and effort and tenacity (each cited by five people). In the areas of ability to employ people and attractiveness, Kim was not mentioned once, while only one person cited his persuasiveness.

Assemblyman Kim Yun-hwan came in seventh place, with a considerable distance between him and sixth place. This appears to be an undervaluation, considering Assemblyman Kim's position within the party. Kim has been a first-class meritorious retainer within the Democratic Justice Party faction of the DLP who has exerted a considerable amount of influence from the time Kim Yong-sam joined in the three-party merger until today. Kim has also virtually solidified his position as the leader of the TK forces. Compared to the survey three years ago, taken before the three-party merger, he has been pushed down in the ranking, being lower then fellow party- mates Assemblymen Yi Han-tong and Kim Tok-yong.

Eighth-place finisher UPP Chairman Pak Chol-on's comparatively large number of citings for his foresight and insight (five persons) and ability to attain political goals is particularly noteworthy. Even Assemblyman Hong Sa-tok in ninth place received a large number of points for his foresight and insight (five) and his intellect (six). Chong Tae-chol, former chairman of the Party for Peace and Democracy, jumped from 17th place three years ago to 10th place, maintaining his steady climb.

Among those worthy of special mention below the top 10 are Daewoo Group Chairman Kim U-chung in 12th place, Assemblyman No Chae-pong in 16th place, and Assemblyman Kang Chae-sop in 17th place. Chairman Kim U-chung is the only nonpolitician to find himself within the top 20 rankings, perhaps because he shook the political world for some time with the rumor of his running for president. Assemblyman No Chae-pong, a first-term nationwide constituency lawmaker, has had experience both as secretary general of the presidential Secretariat as well as prime minister. However, compared to his experience, his political strength remains an unknown factor. As such, he received comparatively high marks in this survey given that he could be termed a newcomer to the political scene. DLP Assemblyman Kang is an incumbent assemblyman who was elected in a regional constituency during the 14th general elections after having served as a nationwide constituency assemblyman following the 13th general election. Although a member of Assemblyman Pak Chol-on's Wolgyesu [Laurel Tree] Association, he has gained his independence from Pak and remains in the DLP. He is known to be a capable individual who enjoys a considerable degree of confidence and popularity among reporters.

Traditional Presidential System Most Realistic

The final question posed by the WOLGAN CHOSON concerned constitutional reform of the power structure. Here, four choices were given to the question: "Choose one of the following that you believe is the most realistic and the form you most prefer: 1) Considering the fact that the establishment and embedding of a system is important, for now the current single five-year term presidential system must be maintained without any changes. 2) There must be constitutional reform adopting a system like the United States' with a president and vice president. This constitutional reform would establish a vice-presidential system and eliminate the current parliamentary elements of our system in which the prime minister must receive the consent of the National Assembly and in which the prime minister enjoys the right of recommending his cabinet members. The term of office for the president should be changed from a single five-year term to a dual, four-year term. 3) Constitutional revision for a parliamentary form of government is necessary. 4) There must be constitutional revision for a bicameral form of government."

Regarding choices three and four, choices for the timing and method of constitutional reform were supplied. Choice A was: "It must not wait until the next (14th) president has completed his term, but rather should be done prior to the 15th (Spring 1996) parliamentary elections." Choice B was: "Constitutional reform should be done just prior to the expiration of the next president's term of office, after which the government should be reorganized with a parliamentary election under the new constitution.

The results were as follows. The choice that received the most support from political reporters, a total of 45, was constitutional reform introducing the traditional president/vice-president form of government, abolishing the parliamentary elements of the current form of government, and revising the term of office of the president to four years, with two consecutive terms possible. Combined with the 32 reporters who supported maintaining the current presidential system, an overwhelming 77 respondents desire a presidential system. However, a formidable number of supporters of constitutional reform for a parliamentary form of government were also seen, with 43 individuals responding that a parliamentary system was the most realistic power structure. Among those, 26 responded that constitutional revision should be done before the next president fulfills his entire term of office, while 17 said that the term of office should be completed before constitutional reform is carried out. Not a single respondent chose the bicameral system.

Burma

Nobel Laureates Denied Request To Visit Rangoon

BK2701113693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1123 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] BANGKOK, Jan 27 (AFP)—Burma has turned down a request by Nobel Peace Prize winners to visit Rangoon in an attempt to press the country's ruling junta to release Burmese dissident and fellow Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. But the Canada-based International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development indicated here Wednesday that arrangements were being finalised for five Nobel prize winners to visit Thailand February 16-20 to campaign for her release.

"Our request to go to Burma was refused outright," said Peter-Andre Globensky, a representative of the center, which is coordinating the mission by the Nobel Peace laureates.

"The Burmese embassy in Ottawa's rejection was unequivocal and categorical," Globensky added.

The Nobel Peace Prize winners, former Costa Rican president Oscar Arias, Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, Mairead Maguire of Northern Ireland, Adolfo Perez Esquivel of Argentina, and a representative of the international human rights group Amnesty International, have contingency plans to visit the Thai-Burmese border town of Mae Sot for a day and a half, Globensky said.

They hoped to meet some of the 70,000 Burmese refugees who have fled to Thailand, most of them ethnic minority people escaping Rangoon's offensives against ethnic minority and pro-democracy guerrillas. The five hope their presence will focus international attention on the 47-year-old Suu Kyi, who has been held under house arrest in Rangoon since July 1989, and bring pressure on the SLORC to free her. The junta has steadfastly refused international calls to release Suu Kyi, but has said she may leave the country.

Thai officials have said the government will talk with the Nobel laureates but have warned against any meddling in Burma's internal matters.

"Thailand cannot be used like that," a foreign ministry spokesman said this week. "It cannot intervene in Burma's internal affairs."

Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri told reporters Sunday that Thailand recognizes the human rights situation in Burma, "but we cannot intervene (in the matter) because we have a good relationship with Burma."

Globensky, who arrived here Monday, said he had already met Thai officials and discussed the visit with them.

"During my talks here I have made it very clear that we had no intention whatsoever of embarassing Thailand," he said. Informed sources in Bangkok said the Nobel mission was also seeking a meeting with Thai Prime Minster Chuan Likphai.

Myo Nyunt Cites Sources of Confusing Rumors

BK2601022893 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Major General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the Yangon [Rangoon] Division Law and Order Restoration Council and commander of the Yangon Military Command, held a meeting with chairmen of divisional, district, and township law and order restoration councils in the conference hall of the Office of the Yangon Division People's Police Force Commander at 1400 today.

Speaking at the meeting, Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt said priority will be given to construction of roads and bridges in the construction sector and cultivation of paddy in the agricultural sector during this coming year. He said measures have been taken to grow 800 million baskets of paddy during this coming year. [passage omitted]

Speaking on the prevailing situation in the country, Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt said all kinds of rumors are being spread with the aim of creating destabilization in the country and he said there are four catagories of people who are sources for these rumors. They are: 1. Those who want to be famous and become destructive after failing to achieve their objective like a man who smashed the major drum after his hope of becoming a leading actor was dashed; 2. Internal minions who want to depend on foreign powers; 3. Profiteering entrepreneuers; 4. Leftists who tend to try others' patience and make them short-tempered.

He said it has been learned that these rumors are creating confusion among the people. He said he would like to explain about the Kalama Sutta by the Lord Buddha or the brilliant discourse on 10 kinds of bad and disgraceful deeds. [passage omitted]

He said, likewise, in the present time efforts made in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha would certainly bring benefits to the country and the persons concerned. He then urged the people to contribute toward the success of the National Convention and to prevent the dangers of destructive elements. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Philippine President Arrives for Official Visit

BK2701075893 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0723 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 27 (OANA-BERNAMA)—President Fidel Ramos arrived here Wednesday to begin a four-day official visit to Malaysia—the first one of a bilateral nature by a Philippine head of state. Ramos was accompanied by his wife Amelita Ramos, four cabinet members, two senators, two congressmen, and an 18-member private sector group. The special aircraft carrying the Philippine leader and his entourage touched down at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang at 3 pm (local time).

Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, his wife Endun Mahmud, and Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Abu Hassan Omar, who is minister-in-attendance, were at the airport to welcome Ramos. The Philippine cabinet members in the entourage were Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo, Trade Secretary Rizalino Navarro, Agriculture Secretary Roberto Sebastien, and Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Angel Alcala.

Ramos and his delegation then proceeded to Parliament Square for the official welcoming ceremony. His visit is at the invitation of the yang di-pertuan agong (king) Sultan Azlan Shah.

Receives 'Red-Carpet Welcome'

BK2701103293 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1001 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 27 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Philippine President Fidel Ramos, who arrived here Wednesday for a four-day official visit to Malaysia, was given a red-carpet welcome at Parliament Square. He was greeted by the yang di-pertuan agong (king), Sultan Azlan Shah, and Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed.

President Ramos and the king stood on a special dias while the national anthems of the two countries were played by the Royal Malay Regiment band.

President Ramos inspected a guard of honour mounted by 107 officers and men from the Royal Malay Regiment under the command of Major Azmi Mohamed. A 21-gun salute was fired simultaneously. He was accompanied by his wife, Puan [Mrs.] Amelita Ramos, four cabinet members, two senators, two congressmen, and an 18-member private sector group.

UMNO Council Agrees To Revoke Privileges

BK2601154593 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1500 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Executive Council today agreed to revoke all over-extended privileges given previously to the Malay rulers. This includes the revocation of land and forest concessions to the rulers. UMNO President, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir, said the government's decision to terminate the over-extended privileges will take immediate effect.

According to him, only rightful privileges will be given but the irrelevant privileges will be revoked. He said there is no allocation for wage supplement for the rulers. It was believed that their wages were insufficient. As such, they were provided with land and forest concessions. He said this during a press conference after chairing an extraordinary Executive Council meeting at the UMNO headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. The four-hour meeting was held to discuss the constitutional amendments to limit the rulers' immunity which were passed by parliament last week.

He said the lavish spending by the rulers has long attracted the government's attention and UMNO because the privileges extended to the Malay rulers had exceeded the provisions of the law and the constitution. He said the Executive Council agreed with the decision of the Johor Baru Magistrate's Court to admonish the Johor regent, Tengku Abdul Majid Idris, on the allegation of causing grievous harm to a Perak state hockey goalkeeper, Mohamed Jaafar Selvaraja Velu, with a 1,000-ringgit compensation. He said UMNO did not object to the court's decision because the decision was taken in accordance with the law.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said UMNO would not have agreed if the court had provided immunity to a son of a state ruler who had violated the law. But after he was brought to face the charges in court, and the court proceeded in the usual manner, the UMNO Executive Council agreed with the court's decision.

Reportage on Sudanese Foreign Minister's Visit

Sahlul Discusses World Issues

BK2601093093 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0425 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 26 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul arrived here Monday night for a three-day official visit to discuss global political developments and economic cooperation with Malaysian leaders. He said Sudan was concerned with the UN Security Council handling of various issues on human rights and democracy. He alleged that the world body was being manipulated to serve the interests of certain countries as reflected in the double standards it adopted in handling conflicts in several parts of the world. He said Sudan felt it was time the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) countries coordinate their position on the issues like UN actions in Iraq and Somalia.

On Somalia, he said Sudan was concerned about a move by some countries to extend their humanitarian mission to include a political solution to the country's problem.

"We are suspicious that a political solution will be tailored to suit the interests of some countries who want to make their presence in Africa. Countries in the continent are excluded from this process," he said. 'Ali Ahmad, who has visited Iran and Indonesia, leaves on Wednesday.

Meets Foreign Minister

BK2601093893 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0741 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 26 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysia will seek to reach a common stand with developing countries on human rights and voice it at the human rights commission meeting in Geneva next month, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Tuesday. This was necessary to ensure that human rights would not be used as a condition for cooperation and trade by the developed nations with developing countries, he told a press conference after receiving his Sudanese counterpart, 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, at the Foreign Ministry here.

He said: "We want to know the method or yardstick for determining the human rights situation of a country. Developing countries should also define this, otherwise, only the developed nations will determine it."

This was vital as human rights was related to democracy, development and the environment, he added. Abdullah said there would be no meeting among developing countries prior to the commission meeting but the delegations could discuss the matter to reach an agreement as was the usual practice. Malaysia would be represented by former deputy prime minister Musa Hitam.

Abdullah also spoke about Philippine President Fidel Ramos' four-day visit to Malaysia from Wednesday. He said Malaysia would hear out the Philippines new approach towards resolving the issue of its claim to Sabah state in east Malaysia if the matter was raised. "Our stand is firm, Sabah belongs to Malaysia," he added.

The issue had long stood in the way of efforts to forge closer cooperation between Malaysia and the Philippines, he said. He hoped the visit would pave the way towards rectifying the situation.

Tanker Mishaps, Ecological Damage Viewed

BK2601110293 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 25 Jan 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Dangerous and Troubled Waters"]

[Text] It can no longer be denied that the narrow and busy Straits of Malacca has become an environmental nightmare. Try to calculate the ecological damage that results from the indiscriminate spilling of harmful effluents into the strait by the 900 ships that pass through it daily. Add that to the damage posed by oil spills due to the frequent collision between ships and tankers. Yes, it all spells ecological catastrophe—one that may leave us and future generations grappling with its aftermath for many years to come.

At present, supertanker Maersk Navigator is spewing its awesome load of nearly two million barrels of oil into the strait and causing much harm to the precious marine ecosystem after colliding with another tanker.

When the final tally is made of all the losses and damage, will the littoral states and users of the strait inject a greater sense of urgency into their search for improved safety in the waterway? Can they provide solutions that will give hope for a safer and cleaner, if not pollution-free, Straits of Malacca?

That is hard to answer. The littoral states' efforts to seek ways and means to improve the safety and condition of the strait began as early as the 1970s. They are still continuing the efforts in the 1990s. True, some measure of success in making life-and-death decisions on navigational safety were achieved. But judging from the recent spate of collisions, which seems to be a prelude to many more until and unless sophisticated vessel traffic control radar is installed, the key issues of safety and cleaning up the mess in the strait remain unresolved.

That may well be due to the fact that shippers need to give greater co-operation to the littoral states while international maritime laws need to be reviewed. Loopholes which allow ships to pollute water ways without paying compensation must be plugged. As pointed out by Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, there should be a legal provision stipulating that ships should be registered in the owners' host countries. As it is, owners conveniently escape the clutch of the law by registering their vessels in countries such as Liberia, Panama and Honduras.

A stance should also be made on the issue of temporary registration issued to ships by certain registries such as Panama and Honduras. International efforts must be made to dispense with the practice of issuing a provisional registration certificate since the information pertaining to a vessel's previous name an ownership in the document is mostly fictitious. The false registration of vessels makes it difficult for any state to trace the actual owner of the offending vessel and slap him with the demand for compensation.

The erroneous belief that the strait is an international waterway and not a territorial waterway must also be resolved. Such efforts may resolve the battle of international usage of the waterway versus the rights and responsibilities of the littoral states.

Users must not use the argument that they have "innocent right of passage" to shirk the responsibility of keeping the strait clean. In this respect, the adjustment of both ownership and international maritime law are needed in such a way that rights and responsibilities would coincide. It is this adjustment that the littoral states must agree to so that they will have a common stance when they meet in the next Law of the Sea Conference.

Cambodia

KR's 12-14 Jan Truce Violations Reported

BK2701043793 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] During this last stage of implementing the Paris accord on Cambodia, since January 1993, the Khmer Rouge [KR] have more violently carried out military activities, especially in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province. As a matter of fact, between 12 and 14 January, the Khmer Rouge attacked some areas of the State of Cambodia [SOC] side, including Chikreng, Varin, Angkor Chum, Svay Leu, and Siem Reap Districts. The onslaughts consisted of firing hundreds of artillery shells on the township of Chikreng district, Sre Khvav area, and the seat of Angkor Chum district; attacking with ground forces Chi Kreng, Svay Leu, and Siem Reap districts, and infiltrating in these localities. Also, they have continued to ship armaments and ammunition to Varin, Svay Leu, and Chikreng districts.

On 12 January, some 60 Khmer Rouge elements from the 41st, 42d, and 43d Battalions of the 92d Regiment in the 960th Division led by Sar and Heng brutally attacked the seat of Angkrong Commune in Siem Reap district. At 2300, those Khmer Rouge soldiers moved from an area north of Pope Chas village, launching a two-pronged attack from an area east of Pong-ro village. The first prong led by Ren moved toward the UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] office in Angkrong village. The second prong led by Sar attacked the market of Angkrong from the east and the UNTAC office from the south. Our people in the seat of Angkrong village were frightened by the Khmer Rouge troops' savage and cruel raids against people, including children and elderly persons, who were living peacefully there.

The Khmer Rouge used all kinds of handguns and rifles and DK-82 guns to attack the district townships. As a result, many people were killed, a great deal of property was destroyed, an office and some materials belonging to UNTAC were burned, and an UNTAC staff member was wounded. After 30 minutes of onslaught, they retreated to the same areas.

The cruel violations committed by the Khmer Rouge have caused devastation and great suffering for our people. As always, they never want our people to live safely and peacefully. At a time when the Paris accord is reaching its final stage, meaning the organization of fair elections in Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge certainly do not want the motherland and people to see a ray of peace. Their only desire is to retake power to return the disaster of genocide to Cambodia.

Khmer Rouge Activities in Kampot Reported

BK2701070493 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0402 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 27 Jan (SPK)—On 18 January, 40 Khmer Rouge soldiers attacked a government position at Tumnop Vat Sre Chea in Kampot Province's Dang Tong district, in an attempt to block Route 36; however, they were repulsed by government forces according to provincial military sources who add:

On the night of 17 January some 30 Khmer Rouge soldiers abducted 20 villagers in Krasang village, Kep commune, in Kampot Province's Kampot district.

During the first fortnight of this month, the guerrillas attacked and plundered a unit of the government army and a provincial police post; they killed four persons including a militiamen and a policeman, captured 30 persons including two government soldiers and two village officials. The assailants took away with them two motorcylces, 700,000 riel, and a quantity of valuables from the local people.

The same sources also say that in 1992, the Khmer Rouge launched a total of 145 attacks against various regions in Kampot province, killing 12 government soldiers, four militiamen, and 12 villagers, excluding those wounded or taken hostage.

Top UN Peacekeeper Goulding Arrives 25 Jan

BK2601062493 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 26 Jan (SPK)—The head of all United Nations peacekeeping operations, Marrack Goulding, arrived in Cambodia on Monday for a three-day visit.

Goulding was scheduled to visit Battambang and Sok San in western Cambodia and Takeo in the south, where the Japanese engineering battalion serving with the United Nations peacekeeping mission is headquartered.

Just a few months away from the general elections in Cambodia and because of repeated incidents between the Khmer Rouge and United Nations personnel, Goulding was seeking to "see on the ground what is going on" in Cambodia, said UN spokesman in Phnom Penh Eric Falt as quoted by AFP.

Possible Presidential Poll Postponement Viewed

BK2601034393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Jan 93 p A4

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri yesterday said the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) may not be ready to organize the presidential election on April 5 as proposed by the Phnom Penh government.

Prasong said his view was based on his conversation with UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi recently. Akashi informed him that election preparations would involve hundreds of election officials, election places, organizing of ballots and so on.

"The presidential election may have to be postponed, but not cancelled, from the proposed April 5," Prasong said.

Prince Sihanouk last weekend said in a statement issued in Beijing that he preferred the presidential election be organized at the same time as the election of the Constituent Assembly.

Sihanouk's statement appeared to contradict Phnom Pehn Prime Minister Hun Sen who said last Wednesday in Bangkok that his government had proposed the presidential poll be held on April 5, a date acceptable to Prince Sihanouk.

ASEAN countries came out recently to back the proposal for Cambodians to have a president to take care of the UN-organized general election and to attempt to unify Cambodia which risks renewed fighting with the refusal of the Khmer Rouge to abide by the peace accords.

Prasong, however, said it would not concern ASEAN if Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC), which is scheduled to meet in Beijing on Thursday, resolved that both polls be organized on the same day.

He said the post-election president, likely to be Prince Sihanouk, if given full authority could effectively break the impasse in the implementation of the 1991 Paris Peace Agreement.

Prasong stressed that ASEAN countries had never proposed that Cambodia have an interim government after the polls. "ASEAN will never intervene in Cambodia's internal affairs by proposing an interim government," he said.

He said he did not believe the Khmer Rouge would disrupt either of the proposed polls as they would be condemned by the international community.

"I don't think the Khmer Rouge will do anything to further isolate it from the peace process," Prasong said.

Asked what his reaction would be if the SNC meeting on Thursday agrees that the Khmer Rouge be isolated from the peace accord, Prasong said all Cambodian matters are in the hands of the Cambodians.

Sihanouk Outlines Ideas on Presidential Bid

OW2701052893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0453 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Beijing, Jan. 27 KYODO—Prince Norodom Sihanouk has distanced himself from foreign proposals to hold presidential elections in Cambodia before general elections this May, arguing in a letter dated Tuesday that only elected representatives would have a mandate to decide on a presidential election.

Sihanouk, who is chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC), outlined his own election proposals in the letter which was distributed Wednesday to foreign journalists in Beijing.

Sihanouk said neither the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) nor the 10-nation U.N. Security Council's Cambodia Forum have the right to decide the election question.

Only last week, Sihanouk had indicated he was willing to contest presidential elections before the general election to help bring peace to Cambodia.

In the letter, Sihanouk pointed out that the 1991 Paris peace agreement on Cambodia did not anticipate presidential elections before or even at the same time as the legislative poll.

"If the Cambodian president is elected before the constituent assembly deputies and before the promulgation of a Cambodian constitution, the problem of what powers to accord the elected president would not be easy to resolve to the satisfaction of all sides, be they pro-Sihanouk or anti-Sihanouk," he said.

Sihanouk, who is considered a shoo-in for president whenever the vote is held, offered his own proposals for the election.

"The date of a presidential election will be fixed by the constituent assembly and UNTAC, that is to say after the legislative elections, after the assembly members start work and after they have ratified a Cambodian constitution," Sihanouk said.

"The method of monitoring the presidential elections and the length of presidential tenure will be decided by the constituent assembly and conform with the provisions of the new Cambodian constitution," he said.

Sihanouk's proposal comes one day before a crucial meeting in Beijing bringing together SNC leaders with UNTAC officials and representatives from the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, and from Indonesia, Thailand, Japan, Australia and Germany.

The 10-member U.N. Forum (UN10) had been expected to approve a plan to hold presidential elections two weeks before the general elections at a meeting later Wednesday before submitting the proposal to SNC delegates Thursday.

"I will tell the (Thursday) meeting that all questions concerning the Cambodian president (the mode of monitoring the election, its date, his powers and term of office) do not come under the jurisdiction of the SNC, UNTAC and the UN10, and should not be discussed at the January 28 gathering," Sihanouk said.

"These questions must be reserved for the Cambodian constituent assembly which will start business toward the end of May or beginning of June 1993."

Sihanouk Modifies Presidential Polls Opinion

HK2701050793 Hong Kong AFP in English 0413 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Beijing, Jan 27 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk has said presidential elections in Cambodia should not be held until after the parliamentary polls, scheduled for May, are completed.

He also said he would ban Cambodia's interim Supreme National Council from discussing the matter when it meets here Thursday, saying it would be a matter for the assembly that emerges from the polls.

"The date of these presidential elections will be set by the constituent assembly and UNTAC (the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia), that is to say after the legislative elections," the prince said in a dispatch dated Tuesday and released to the press Wednesday.

The presidential elections will be held "after the members of the constituent assembly have taken up their posts and after the promulgation by this assembly of the Cambodian constitution," said the mercurial prince, before apologising for modifying his position "once again."

Sihanouk originally called for presidential elections, which he is almost certain of winning, to be conducted before the parliamentary polls.

He then changed his mind and said the two polls should be held simultaneously.

The 1991 Paris peace accords that officially ended Cambodia's 13- year civil war provided for legislative elections, but did not envisage presidential elections.

Sihanouk's latest proposal comes as the Supreme National Council (SNC), which groups Cambodia's four opposing factions and is chaired by the prince, prepares to meet here Thursday to discuss holding presidential elections.

"On January 28, 1993, I will say that all questions concerning the president of Cambodia no longer fall within the remit of the SNC-UNTAC-'expanded Perm Five' and may not be discussed during the January 28 meeting," his message said.

They must be reserved for the constituant assembly of Cambodia," it said.

The ambassadors to Phnom Penh of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, the four countries that sponsored the 1991 peace accords and co-chairman with France of the Paris peace conference Indonesia—dubbed the "expanded Perm Five"—are to attend the SNC meeting here. UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi will also attend.

The U.N. Security Council groups the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China, and the four co-sponsors of the Paris accords are Australia, Germany, Thailand and Malaysia.

Sihanouk, who is in the Chinese capital for medical treatment, said it was time to "end in a radical way the endless controversies, political manoeuvres ... of certain foreign circles and certain Khmer groups."

Thanks to his latest proposals, "everything will become clear-cut, totally democratic and beyond criticism," he said.

More on Sihanouk 26 Jan Message

BK2701124493 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Message from Prince Norodom Sihanouk to the Cambodian people, issued from Beijing on 26 January—read by announcer]

[Text] Beloved and respected compatriots: I ask you to show me understanding as I deem it necesary to once again change my position concerning the coming presidential elections. Today we see that although the date of these elections coincide with those of the legislative elections there are still some difficult problems to be resolved. The main questions raised particularly by certain foreign personalities and anti-Sihanouk Cambodian politicians are as follows:

I. The 23 October 1991 Paris agreement did not envisage the holding of presidential elections either ahead of or simultaneously with the constituent assembly elections.

II. If the Cambodian president is elected before the members of the constituent assembly and before the promulgation of the Cambodian constitution, it will be difficult to settle the question of handing power to the newly elected president in a manner that will please everybody, that is, both the Sihanouk sympathizers and his detractors.

III. It is more reasonable and logical to first wait for the promulgation of the Cambodian constitution by the Constituent Assembly before determining:

A. the procedure of the presidential elections;
B. the length of the Cambodian president's term; and
C. the constitutional power of the president.

Beloved and respected compatriots, I understand that it is time to end in a radical way the endless controversies, political maneuvers, and anti-Sihanouk criticisms and diatribes of certain foreign circles and Cambodian political groups. For this reason, I ask your permission to make a new proposal concerning the presidential elections:

I. The date of the presidential elections will be set by the constituent assembly and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], that is to say, after the legislative elections, after the members of the constituent assembly have taken up their posts, and after the promulgation by this assembly of Cambodia's new constitution.

II. The procedure of the presidential elections and the length of the president's term will be determined by the constituent assembly in accordance with the provisions of Cambodia's new constitution.

In this way, everything will become clear-cut, totally democratic, and beyond criticism because it will represent the sovereign wish of the Cambodian people and neither UNTAC, the five powers and a number of other countries, nor Norodom Sihanouk will be the one who makes decisions on matters concerning the president of Cambodia.

On 28 January 1993, I will say during the meeting of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC] that all questions concerning the president of Cambodia, the method of the elections, the date of the elections, the length of the term, and the power of the president no longer fall within the jurisdiction of the SNC, UNTAC, or the five powers and a few other countries. They may not be discussed during the 28 January 1993 meeting in Beijing and must be left to the discretion of the Cambodian constituent assembly that will be created at the end of May or the beginning of June 1993.

May all my beloved and respected compatriots enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha and accept my profound affection, undivided loyalty, and impartial sincerity.

Beijing, 26 January 1993
Signed: Norodom Sihanouk

Government Spokesman Views Current Situation

BK2701033993 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] On the morning of 26 January, the spokesmen of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government, including Uch Kim-an, deputy minister of the Council of Ministers' office; and General Pan Thai, advisor of the SOC prime minister, held a weekly news conference at an international hotel with the participation of local and foreign reporters and representatives of various embassies accredited to Cambodia.

Uch Kim-an said this week in Phnom Penh that His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, SOC prime minister, held talks with two major personalities, H.E. Ali Alatas, Indonesian foreign minister; and H.E. Gareth Evans, Australian foreign minister. At these talks, a consensus emerged on holding the presidential election ahead of the constituent assembly election. The interlocutors agreed that the election of the constituency assembly should be held as planned with or without Khmer Rouge participation.

Uch Kim-an also pointed out that at the end of his visit to Beijing and during his stopover in Bangkok, H.E. Prime Minister Hun Sen also held talks with H.E. Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri. Prasong clearly affirmed to Prime Minister Hun Sen that a report on a proposal to set up a provisional government in Cambodia before the constituency assembly election was only a rumor. H.E. Prasong specified that this is not an ASEAN idea.

The spokesman of the SOC Government alo said that concerning the elections in Cambodia, His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk is happy with the idea of holding presidential and constituent assembly elections at the same time to avoid a difference of views on the date of these two elections. The SOC can also accept this date because H.E. Prime Minister Hun Sen also recently discussed this with HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Beijing. However, the SOC still thinks that it will be beneficial if there is a one or two week gap between these two elections because during this period the elected president, who we hope will be HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, will have the opportunity to organize his work as president. Furthermore, this could avoid confusion when our people cast their votes in these two elections.

Uch Kim-an said that to enable the forthcoming elections to proceed smoothly, UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] should examine a number of measures. The first is to prevent the Khmer Rouge from expanding their territory and threatening people; second, ensure security and prevent unrest during the elections; and third, continue to implement a policy of economic stability. This is because we have been victims of floods in 1991 and last year some areas faced drought. In other years, we were faced with the task of solving the daily life of repatriated compatriot refugees. All this will seriously affect the life of the people and the national economy. Uch Kim-an noted that this week the security situation was relaxed and that the Sino-Vietnamese new year was safely and happily celebrated.

However, on 21 January in Kompong Chhnang Province, a member of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] gunned down a village deputy head in Kompong Leng district. The SOC police is investigating the matter.

In Kampot Province, an SOC policeman was arrested by UNTAC and accused of killing a FUNCINPEC party member. The SOC is also investigating this matter because lately 247 people sent protest notes saying that the policeman did not commit the act as accused. Uch Kim-an also specified the murder of two persons in Tuol Kouk [Phnom Penh's northwest suburb]; one was a member of FUNCINPEC, and the other a member of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party. On the bodies of these two persons, large bunches of keys were found which could lead to the conclusion that they were stealing motorcycles. The SOC police is making efforts to investigate this case.

Progress of National Assembly Session Reported

BK2601063093 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] On the morning of 26 January, the 24th ordinary session of the National Assembly's first legislature actively continued its work with a high sense of responsibility for the fate and current situation of the country. As planned, on the morning of the second day the assembly debated reports on the execution of 1993 state planning, the goal of 1993 state planning, the implementation of financial work, the 1992 state budget, the objective of financial work, and the 1993 state budget.

At the meeting, His Excellency Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, accounted for government efforts to manage the economy by transforming the planned economy into a free-market economy. He pointed out that in 1992 we experienced budgetary inflation, but at the beginning of 1993 the government was able to moderately block the inflation by amassing and placing currency in banks and by planning expenditure. He added that in 1993, the government would focus on stabilizing the economy by applying austerity measures on unnecessary spending and by striving to increase the state budget.

The assembly members voiced their support for and contributed their views to the government's request and appeal for stabilizing the national economy.

The assembly postponed its work at 1100, and it resumes its activities this afternoon.

Inflation, Food Shortage Discussed

BK2601144693 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] The 24th ordinary session of the first legislature of the State of Cambodia [SOC]'s National Assembly proceeded actively on the afternoon of 26 January by continuing its debate on the implementation of state plans and financial and budgetary work.

Members from various constituencies discussed and expressed their views on the implementation of state plans and problems concerning financial and budgetary work in 1992 and on ways to improve the implementation of state plans and financial and budgetary work in 1993 so as to check inflation.

The assembly also discussed a solution to the problem of people's food demand in 1993 to be faced by the SOC Government.

The assembly listened attentively to the explanation by His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, chairman of the SOC's Council of Ministers, concerning the government's efforts to seek an economic solution for helping the people who will face a food shortage. H.E. Hun Sen proposed that all provinces and cities economize their expenses and that the financial sectors in particular should enhance frugality which is the primary way to check budget deficits.

At the same time, the chairman of the Council of Ministers emphasized the plan to increase production and promote savings so as to help the people to upgrade their living standard.

The session adjourned at 1700 and will resume its work tomorrow.

Hun Sen on Investment Issue

BK2701074593 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] On the morning of 27 January, the 24th ordinary session of the First National Assembly actively continued its work according to the agenda under the chairmanship of His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia [SOC]. This morning the assembly members attentively listened to explanations made by representatives of economic ministries concerning reports on the implementation of the financial task and state budget in 1992 and the objective of the financial task and state budget in 1993. The Finance Ministry accounted for the issues of revenue gained from taxes on exploitation and foreign investment and the issue of organizing a system for circulating riel bank notes, which is the major cause of inflation.

Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the SOC, explained to the assembly the government's policy to promote Cambodia's civil aviation, which will bring income for the state budget and facilitate traffic inside and outside the country.

The assembly also listened to comments made by economic experts who have just returned from overseas and joined the SOC Government.

On the issue of investment, H.E. Hun Sen, chairman of the SOC Council of Ministers, told the assembly that we should clearly determine the investment and exploitation that have caused the loss of social value. He stressed that the objective of the investments in production and services advocated by the SOC Government is to provide jobs for the Cambodian people and promote the people's living standard.

The assembly session, which was adjourned at 1015, will resume this afternoon.

Penal Law Procedures Presented

BK2701121493 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] On the afternoon of 27 January, the 24th ordinary session of the First Legislature of the State of Cambodia's National Assembly continued its work according to schedule.

At this afternoon's session, assembly members listened attentively to a bill submitted by the People's Supreme Court on the legal procedures for the penal law submitted for consideration and approval as a law for implementation in court proceedings by the People's Court at all levels and at related institutions.

The assembly session adjourned at 1700 and will resume its work tomorrow morning.

'Relatively Independent' Newspaper Published

BK2501014693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0115 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 25 (AFP)—A group of Cambodians, who remember what having a relatively free press was like before communism imposed censorship on the media, have given life back to one of Cambodia's most popular newspapers.

The KOH SANTEPHEAP, or ISLAND OF PEACE, hit newsstands again last Thursday for the first time since its pioneering editor was killed by the Khmer Rouge in 1975.

"I have waited for a long time for the chance to get back to my old profession," said new editor Thong Uypang, 50, who was a reporter for the newspaper in its glory days of the 1970s.

The KOH SANTEPHEAP is remembered as the most popular of the country's relatively independent broadsheets. With a print run of 25,000 copies daily, its veiled criticism of the Lon Nol regime was read widely by everyone from princes to pedicab drivers.

The radical Khmer Rouge, who took power in 1975, published no newspapers and the communist government that replaced them in 1979 set up a strictly controlled press.

The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which is charged with creating an environment for a free press along with holding a fair election, is watching the revived newspaper's progress.

"We believe and hope that KOH SANTEPHEAP will live up to its illustrious name," said Timothy Carney, the UNTAC information director who used to read the newspaper as a U.S. Embassy official in Phnom Penh during the 1970s.

"Right now, the (Cambodian) media is aspiring to the kind of freedoms which are enjoyed in other countries," he said.

But Thong Uypang, who is also employed as a civil servant, is still cautious after having restarted the newspaper with an investment of 7,000 U.S. dollars and help from three fellow reporters who survived the Khmer Rouge regime.

"I have to be very careful all the time about writing stories in my newspaper," he said. "I am afraid to write stories about the Phnom Penh government. I worry that my business will be lost and perhaps even my life."

Thong Uypang is currently borrowing equipment from the state-run press, "so if I write bad stories about them they will not sell the papers and print the newspapers for me," he said.

The new edition of KOH SANTEPHEAP, 10,000 copies of which were selling well at city newsstands, featured a relatively objective "Who's Who" article on more than 20 political parties operating in the country.

The description of the ruling Cambodian People's Party said the present government has given the people "both sweetness and bitterness," adding that it was often criticised for the way it came to power. The Phnom Penh government was installed by Vietnam after that country's armed forces invaded Cambodia in 1978.

The newspaper added that the Khmer Rouge were disrupting the peace plan which ended the Cambodian civil war, but failed to give the faction's reasoning for their actions.

Another article focussed on the exploitation of Cambodia's natural resources and criticised Thai "thieves" and Vietnamese businessmen, while an editorial on the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Cambodia wondered whether UNTAC could be more effective.

An introduction to readers on the front page described the newspaper as a private and independent enterprise which was revived after a lapse of two decades.

"Our newspaper is neutral and truthful in the hope of finding peace and happiness for the people," it said.

Meanwhile, editor Thong Uypang said he hopes to be able to quit his government job as soon as the newspaper is up and running.

Indonesia

Paper: SNC Should Take Initiative for Peace

BK2701092993 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 27 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the Cambodian issue, KOMPAS discusses the relevance of the Paris peace accord with the current situation in that country where the Khmer Rouge have refused to comply with the peace plan, especially on the issue of disarmament. The Khmer Rouge refusal has threatened the Cambodian peace process based on the Paris peace accord. KOMPAS believes that the Cambodian Supreme National Council, a grouping of Cambodian leaders, should take more initiative to bring peace to the country.

KOMPAS also welcomes Foreign Minister Ali Alatas' remarks that Indonesia, being one of the Paris conference cochairmen, has exerted adequate efforts to solve the problem. Indonesia has many other tasks which require its attention.

Suharto Warns Against Linking Aid, Human Rights

BK2601123393 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1052 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 26 (OANA/ANTARA)—President Suharto has told developed countries not to put economic pressures on developing countries by linking their aid with human rights as human rights violation is not a problem faced by developing countries only, but also by developed nations.

All members of the Nonaligned Movement consider that it is an exaggeration and unnecessary for donor countries to link human rights performance with economic aid in order to press them to implement human rights, he said in an opening ceremony of the second United Nations Workshop on Human Rights for the Asia-Pacific Region, here Tuesday.

He said that it was ironic if we recall that even in the developed countries we can still witness the violation against human rights.

These pressures become even more ironic if exerted by former colonizers on developing countries which were striving hard to regain their self-esteem as a consequence of past colonialism, he said.

What we actually need is to foster close cooperation with a view to accelerating the creation of a more equitable, peaceful, prosperous, and thriving human society, he stressed.

He cited that every nation should be respected and allowed to take its own initiative in accordance with its own values and institutional system to raise the dignity of its citizens.

The ceremony was attended by Vice President Sudharmono, the speaker of the House of Representatives/People's Consultative Assembly Wahono, Coordinating Minister of Politics and Security Sudomo, and the Armed Forces chief General Try Sutrisno.

President Suharto noted that every nation upholds the human rights. But certainly there exist differences when it comes to its understanding, institutionalization, and the implementation of the human rights. That's normal and there is no need to prevent it, he said.

He pointed out that the differences resulted from the different background of their culture and history and the level of their development.

Different level of economy strongly influences governments' policy in implementing the human rights. The real problem actually is not only to protect the human rights but also to create a conducive condition in a society for the implementation and protection of the human rights.

He said that Indonesia and other members of the Nonaligned Movement view the human rights as not only the right of a person but the right of a society, nation, and the state.

In Indonesia, he said, the human rights principles were included in the Constitution or UUD 1945 and the basic principles of Pancasila.

Meanwhile, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said that the workshop would look into matters relating to the preparations for the June world conference on human rights. He said that the workshop would serve as an open forum for dialogue and exchange of views in line with the spirit of cooperation as stated in the UN Charter on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

Alatas Confirms Human Rights Commitment to UN

BK2701080593 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0658 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 27 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesia confirmed its commitment to cooperate with the United Nations in promoting the enforcement of human rights implementation in an international workshop which was officially opened by President Suharto here Tuesday.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told workshop participants from 32 countries in the Asia-Pacific region that the organising of the workshop here reflected the country's preparedness to cooperate with the world body in enforcing human rights implementation.

He said the workshop was held in line with the resolutions of the United Nations on the implementation of the human rights and the importance of the formation of a regional forum to monitor human rights implementation in the region.

The workshop is expected to become a forum for dialogues among the Asia-Pacific nations on human rights, Alatas said.

The workshop, which will end on Jan 28, was the follow-up of the first similar meeting in Manila in 1990. In the workshop, Indonesia was represented by T. Mulya Lubis, director of the Institute of Human Rights Studies, and N. Hassan Wirayuda, Indonesia's permanent representative at the UN office in Geneva.

Foreign panelists include Brian Burdekin from Australia, Fan Guoxiang from China, Fausto Pocar from Italy, and Agha Shahi from Pakistan.

Anthonio Blanca, secretary general for Human Rights Affairs also addressed the opening of the workshop, stressing on the importance of commitment from countries in the region on the basic principles of the human rights protection.

However, he acknowledged that the basic principles should be interpreted in accordance with the national standards which are acceptable to the international community.

Blanca said violations against human rights still occurred in many countries due to a lack of information and education in the countries concerned.

According to the UN official, information and education are the best means of preventing the violations against human rights. This means that all people in the countries must get enough information on human rights and education.

He promised that the UN Human Rights Centre will provide assistance for education and training on human rights protection for police, teachers, parliament members, and government offivials.

The workshop is expected to provide inputs for the organisation of the upcoming conference on human rights due to take place in Vienna, Austria, from June 14 to 25, he said.

The participants also expressed the hope that the workshop would also produce a declaration on human rights in the region facilitating the implementation of human rights in the countries of the region.

Alatas said that the people in the region has many differences in their system of social, political, economic, cultural and religious life.

However, the workshop is expected to be able to solve the differences and help the countries in the region reach mutual understanding in the field of human rights implementation, he said.

Meanwhile, Director of the Indonesian Legal Aid Institute (LBH) Abdul Hakim Garuda Nusantara said that Indonesia was challenged to prove its credibility as a human rights protector after hosting the workshop.

As a member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, Indonesia will be always spotlighted by the international community in the field of human rights implementation, he said.

He said the international community holds a right to monitor the implementation of human rights in any country on the ground that human rights is a universal issue.

As the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) and one of the architects of the Jakarta Message which includes articles on human rights, Indonesia is urged to put in [words indistinct] the implementation of human rights at least in the NAM countries, he said.

Indonesia should criticize any violations against human rights in all parts of the world and even in its own territory, Nusantara said.

Armed Forces Chief Readies Leadership Reshuffle

BK2601123893 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 22 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Armed Forces Commander Gen. Try Sutrisno confirmed here yesterday that he had laid down preparations for an upcoming military leadership reshuffle.

"Everything has been prepared, including replacements," Try said after accompanying the visiting Australian Armed Forces commander, Gen. P.C. Gration E.C., in paying a courtesy call on President Suharto at the Bina Graha Presidential Office. Try said he had submitted the list of candidates to the head of state, but the names were confidential. Try said the reshuffle would come "before or after the People's Consultative Assembly session in March."

Sources said the chiefs of staff of the army, navy, and the police chief would be involved.

Try is widely tipped to become the next vice president beginning in March, a position which would require him to be released from his current military duties.

Paper Decries Plastic, Toxic Wastes at Port

BK2601105193 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 26 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] TERBIT discusses the presence of ownerless containers containing plastic waste at the Tanjung Priok Port, which is such a problem that President Suharto must take action by banning the import of plastic substances and instruct related agencies to investigate the presence of 116 containers containing plastic and toxic wastes at the port. With the presence of such imported plastic waste, about 9,000 scavengers who earn their livelihood from collecting garbage in the area are facing serious occupational problems. Their daily income has also shrunk. Before the arrival of the plastic waste, they managed to earn 10,000 rupiah per day, but now they can only earn 2,500 rupiah per day.

TERBIT says that if only the importers had understood the meaning of the 1982 Law No. 4 on environmental management, the current situation would never have occurred. Therefore, it is hoped that the authorities will take immediate action against the importers of plastic waste because such waste can destroy the environment and discharge substances dangerous to humans.

Official Views Investment Climate, Opportunity

BK2301123693 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 9 Jan 93 pp 78,79

[Excerpt] The flow of foreign investment into mainland China is getting stronger and it stood at about U.S. $8 billion in 1992. Taiwanese investors are now more interested in investing there, especially in Fujian Province and its surroundings despite the fact that the two countries are still technically at war. The PRC has indeed offered attractive investment facilities in addition to the linguistic and cultural similarities of the two countries. This should make Indonesia more vigilant and exert more efforts to prevent foreign investors, especially from Taiwan, from shifting their capital to China. Observers have said the PRC is indeed Indonesia's major rival in attracting foreign capital.

However, Sanyoto Sastrowardoyo, chairman of the Capital Investment Coordinating Agency, disagreed with the view that the PRC had attracted more foreign capital than Indonesia. "In 1992, we managed to attract foreign investment worth U.S. $10.2 billion, higher than what the PRC did," he said to TEMPO correspondent Ivan Harris.

Using the population of the two countries as a yardstick, Sanyoto came to the conclusion that Indonesia had performed better in attracting foreign investment. "The PRC with its population of more than 1 billion managed to absorb foreign investment worth only $8 billion, while Indonesia with far less population was able to absorb more. Capital investment must be viewed in terms of population because investment has something to do with manpower utilization," said Sanyoto. The following is excerpts of the TEMPO interview with Sanyoto:

[Harris] Is it true that when compared with previous years, the value of our foreign investment has decreased?

[Sanyoto] Do you think it is easy to attract foreign investors to come here? Every year, there are about U.S. $250 billion in investment funds which must be wooed and shared among many countries. Due to the industrialist countries' protectionist policy, the bulk of the funds, or about 83.5 percent, usually go to the industrialist countries themselves, while the remaining 16.5 percent have to be shared among developing countries. In 1992, there were 280 foreign investment projects approved by our Capital Investment Coordinating Agency, compared with 376 projects in 1991 and 432 projects in 1990. Therefore, 1992 saw a decline in the number of projects approved. But their value increased to U.S. $10.2 billion compared to U.S. $7.7 billion in 1991 and U.S. $8.75 billion in 1990. We view this as a good trend—we have fewer projects but more investment funds.

[Harris] As of December 1992, have we achieved our investment target?

[Sanyoto] We must look at the investment target during the fifth five-year development plan from April 1989 to April 1993, which is projected at 239.1 trillion rupiah. The government is expected to invest 45 percent of that amount, while the remaining 55 percent will be done by the private sector, which consists of 30 percent nonfacility investment and 70 percent domestic and foreign investments. As of December 1992, the value of all projects approved thus far was 220.9 trillion rupiah, which means that our target will be achieved. [passage omitted]

Laos

PRC's Qian Qichen To Pay Official Visit

BK2701061293 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 27 Jan 93

[27 January "release" by Foreign Affairs Ministry on scheduled visit to Laos by PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen]

[Text] In reply to an invitation of Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister of Laos, a delegation of the PRC Government led by Qian Qichen, Chinese state councillor and foreign affairs minister, will pay an official goodwill visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic from 30 January to 1 February.

Local Committees Discuss Thai Border Security

BK2601071993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] On 23 January in Nakhon Phanom Province, Thailand, a joint meeting was held between the local-level border peacekeeping committees of Laos' Khammouane Province and Thailand's Nakhon Phanom Province.

The meeting, the first of its kind in 1993, was attended by Inpong Khai-gnavong, governor of Khammouane Province, Major Prida Wongchaicharoen, governor of Nakhon Phanom Province, and full members of the two committees.

The two sides discussed cooperation in safeguarding peace and security along the Lao-Thai border; border trade; suppression of theft, robbery, and smuggling of contraband goods; and other issues of common interest that they deemed neccessary for cooperation in the immediate future and in the long run.

At the end of the meeting, the two sides signed a memorandum on measures for peace and security maintenance along the common border of the two provinces to make it a border of peace, friendship, and cooperation. The memorandum also sets rules and regulations for visiting each province to comply with international laws with a view to enhancing a new quality of solidarity and cooperation between the peoples of the two provinces, as well as the two countries, Laos and Thailand.

The two provinces, Khammouane and Nakhon Phanom, held the meeting on border peacekeeping for the first time this year, and are the first among Lao and Thai provinces that share a common border to hold such meeting this year.

Committee Delegation Leaves for Vietnam

BK2501154393 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Maichantan Sengmani, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Central Party and State Control Committee, and a committee delegation left Vientiane by a special plane on the morning of 25 January for an official visit to the SRV. The delegation, which he is leading, is scheduled to stay in the SRV until 2 February.

The visit is in response to an invitation from the Vietnamese Party and State Control Committee. It is part of the implementation of the treaty and protocol on the special solidarity and all-around cooperation between the parties and governments of the two countries, Laos and Vietnam. The visit to Vietnam by Maichantan Sengmani on this occasion is also aimed at further promoting and expanding the cooperation between the control organizations of the two countries.

During the visit, the Lao side will inform the Vietnamese side of the situation concerning the socioeconomic development in Laos, in particular the implementation of the comprehensive restructuring line of the party and Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, in order to further strengthen the mutual understanding between the two sides. It is also intended to increasingly promote and expand, ever more fruitfully, the relations and cooperation in all respects between the parties, governments, and peoples of Laos and Vietnam.

The delegation was seen off at Wattai Airport by Dr. Davon Vongsak, vice chairperson of the Central Party and State Control Committee, and Nguyen Xuan, ambassador of Vietnam to Laos, along with a number of high-ranking cadres concerned.

Philippines

Ramos Delivers Speech, Leaves for Malaysia

BK2701043493 Quezon City PTV 4 People's Television Network in English 0307 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Philippine President Fidel Ramos' speech before his departure to Malaysia 27 Jan, delivered at Manila Airport—live]

[Text] Vice President Joseph Estrada, Honorable Diosdado Macapagal, Senate President (Edgardon Gara), Speaker pro tempore (Odassa), Your Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps, distinguished members of the Senate and House of Representatives, my fellow workers in government.

At the gracious invitation of His Majesty the Yang Dipertuan Agung [Paramount Ruler] the King of Malaysia, I leave today with Mrs. Ramos and a small official party in which both chambers of congress are ably represented as well as a delegation of Philippine business community for a four-day visit to Malaysia. This trip continues a series of visits to the different ASEAN capitals that I began—to Thailand—in December 1992. Events and trends in the world are beginning to bring us closer than ever, economically and in our concerns for regional security, to our neighbors and partners in the Association of Southeast Asian nations.

My visit to Malaysia is particularly significant. It will be the first time in 15 years that the Philippine president sets foot on Malaysian soil, and it will be the first state visit in 25 years that a Philippine president makes to Malaysia. We therefore accord the highest importance to this visit. It will be a visit to a close neighbor—a neighbor with whom we have over the centuries shared a history of intensive human interaction, with whom we are bound by brotherly ties of race, language, and culture. Our ties with Malaysia, however, transcend geography, history, and the immutable manifestations of our heritage. My purpose is to expand the entire range of Philippine-Malaysian relations and I look forward to consulting with the Malaysian leadership on matters of our common concern, regional stability, and economic cooperation. We share an interest in the enduring stability of our region and the incalculable benefits for both our peoples that can flow from a regime of close bilateral and regional relations.

During our visit we shall seek to build a new and stronger relationship upon these common interests, guided by our vision of a common ASEAN destiny. We shall seek to build on what unites us and transcend those things that divide us. We look forward to being received by Their Majesties the Yang Dipertuan Agung and the Raja Permaisuri Agung [Queen] and we look forward to productive talks with His Excellency the prime minister of Malaysia, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, and his delegation. With them, we hope to undertake an illuminating review of present global political and economic developments affecting our multilateral and bilateral relations. We shall explore ways of building with our other neighbors a sturdy framework for regional stability. We shall discuss the state of our regional economic cooperation, including the ASEAN Free Trade Area and the proposed East Asian Economic Caucus and see in what ways we can together advance that cooperation. For in these times, regional economic cooperation means so much for the future of all our peoples. Above all, we shall explore new approaches to improving and strengthening our bilateral relations in all of their dimensions and ramifications. We hope that in this way those relations can cross the barriers of history and remain firmly on the road of peace and friendship, never to turn back.

We look forward to taking a look at the factors that have gone into Malaysia's remarkable economic growth and use some of the fruits of that growth. I have included in my delegation leaders of the Philippine business community to establish and strengthen contacts with Malaysia's business community. And it is our hope that these contacts will result in concrete cooperative arrangements for our mutual benefit.

I also look forward to the always satisfying experience of being in the midst of our Filipino countrymen in Kuala Lumpur, who contribute in no small measure to the progress of the host country in which they work. My delegation and I shall also be taking this opportunity to convey to the Malaysian leadership and business community as well as the Filipinos working and residing in Malaysia of the progress we have made in reinforcing Philippine political stability and internal security based on a policy of national unification. We shall be informing them of the policies we have put in place to steer our economy to the path of self-sustaining growth so that we can continue to have the cooperation and goodwill of Malaysia as we travel together towards greater progress and solidarity. For all these reasons, I regard this visit as a most important initiative and I ask your good wishes for our success.

I leave our beloved Philippines briefly for this mission, confident that our country is secure against any threat of whatsoever nature. May the good Lord keep all of us safe until we meet again four days from now.

Cabinet Members Join Ramos

HK2701031593 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 27 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Isabel de Leon and Fred M. Lobo]

[Text] President Ramos leaves today for a four-day state visit to Malaysia to revitalize and strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries. The President and his 14-man official party will leave Manila at 11 a.m. on board the Presidential plane.

The official party is composed of: First Lady Mrs. Amelita Ramos, Secretaries Roberto Romulo (Foreign Affairs), Rizalino Navarro (Trade and Industry), Roberto Sebastian (Agriculture), Angel Alcala (Environment and Natural Resources), and Rodolfo T. Reyes (Pess); Reps. Michael Mastura and Ben Saudi Tulawie, Development Bank of the Philippines Chairman Roberto de Ocampo, Senators Blas Ople and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, former senator Raul Manglapus, and Office for Muslim Affairs Director Dimasangkay Pundato.

Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia Alberto Encomienda said the President's visit is geared primarily to push for the strengthening of economic relations.

Presidential spokesperson Annabelle Tecson Abaya had earlier told a press briefing that Ramos, the first Philippine head of state to visit Malaysia in 25 years, hopes to "warm up and normalize" the strained and cold RP [Republic of the Philippines]-Malaysia relations as a result of conflicting proprietary claims to oil-rich Sabah.

The President disclosed that the issue of Sabah will be discussed but it will not be the major point of discussion. In his absence, the President has set up a 24-hour operation center in Malacanang to be manned by officials from the Office of the President (OP).

Presidential spokesperson Annabelle Tecson Abaya said that the Chief Executive has farmed out all the functions in the OP to be discharged by at least six rotating OP officials. "The President will still be in charge. We'll be here 24 hours to receive his calls and instructions," she added.

Delegation Activities Planned

HK2701032493 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 27 Jan 93 p 8

[Text] Kuala Lumpur (Via PLDT [Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company])—President Ramos begins today his four-day state visit to Malaysia to forge warmer diplomatic relations, boost bilateral trade and expand economic and mutual cooperation between Malaysia and the Philippines.

The President, set to arrive at 3 p.m., will be welcomed at the Parliament Square here by the king and queen of Malaysia, the Yang Di Pertuan Agong and Raja Permaisuri Agong, and Malaysia's head of government, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed.

During the royal welcome ceremonies, Ramos will be introduced to the Malaysian Cabinet and members of the Diplomatic Corps. The Philippine President will also be accorded full military honors traditionally accorded to visiting heads of state. Philippine flags have been displayed together with Malaysian flags in some parts of this city to mark the state visit.

After the arrival honors, the President and the First Lady, Mrs. Amelita Ramos, will be escorted to the Carcosa Seri Negara, the seven-suite official residence for visiting heads of state. A series of activities, such as meetings with government officials, businessmen and the Filipino community here, has been lined up for Ramos and his accompanying Cabinet secretaries and members of the Philippine delegation.

Tonight, Prime Minister Mahathir will call on President and Mrs. Ramos, after which, the President and the First Lady will have an audience with the King and Queen at the Istana Seri Negara, the official residence of their majesties. State dinner follows.

On his second day tomorrow, Ramos will lay a wreath at the National Heroes Monument dedicated to those who died for the cause of freedom and peace. The National Monument occupies a total area of 48,562 sq. m. in the Lake Gardens, and is composed of seven bronze figures depicting the triumph of Malaysian Security forces against state enemies.

After the wreathlaying ceremonies, bilateral talks between the two countries follow to be headed by Ramos and Prime Minister Mahathir. A full delegation meeting will also be held aimed at enhancing economic cooperation between Malaysia and the Philippines.

Philippine ambassador to Malaysia Alberto Encomienda said that a joint venture trade agreement will be forged between Malaysia's private businessmen and their Filipino counterparts. On the same day, the President will also address the Malaysian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) where he is expected to invite investors to consider the Philippines in their foreign investments.

Malaysia's economic planning unit (EPU) will brief the President and his party on the country's economic and trade investment policies. In the evening, the prime minister will tender an informal dinner for the First Couple and the presidential party at his residence.

On Friday, the President and the First lady will play golf with his Majesty the Yang DiPertuan Agong and Her Majesty the Raja Permaisuri Agong. They will also be have a private lunch.

In the afternoon, the President, accompanied by Mahathir, will visit some industrial plants in Kuala Lumpur before holding a press conference at 5 p.m.

On Friday evening, the First Couple, with the official party, will be honored by the Filipino community here at Shangrila Hotel with a testimonial dinner and a cultural presentation entitled "Parangal para sa Pangulo at Unang Ginang [Rites for the President and first lady]."

On the last day of his visit, the President and the First Lady will bid a farewell call to the King and Queen before departing for Manila at 9:30 a.m.

Church Urges Action on 'Fundamental Issues'

HK2701025693 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 27 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Juliet M. Labog and Dario Agnote]

[Text] The Catholic Church is calling on the government to radically address the problems of poverty, injustice, inequitable distribution of wealth and abuse of power if it wants to achieve peace.

At the same time, it admonishes all rebel groups to "forget their own vested interests" and talk peace with the government.

In a pastoral letter expected to be read in Catholic churches on Sunday [31 January], the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines [CBCP] said: "The peace that we must work for is not only the cessation of armed conflict."

The pastoral letter was drawn up after a "peace consultation" with members of the National Unification Commission [NUC] last Saturday in Tagaytay City.

"The parties in the peace discussions being conducted by the (NUC) are convinced that even if the present protagonists were to stop fighting today, other conflicts would arise unless the more fundamental issues of poverty and injustice, the inequitable distribution of wealth and the abuse of power, are addressed radically," the CBCP said.

The CBCP expressed its "whole-hearted support" for the work of the NUC.

"Some bright rays of hope have shone on the horizon," the bishops said. "The (NUC) established by the President of the Republic has succeeded in making contacts of varying degrees with different rebel groups."

They added: "We now feel there is real hope for the cessation of hostilities at least in some fronts. We must nurture this hope. We must decide for peace, work for peace together as Filipinos.

"In a way we have no other choice but this if we want to survive as a nation and progress as a people. Either peace or we perish."

Peace, the bishops said, is the most important element of the common good, and without it "we will continue to be left behind by our neighbors who are making great strides on the way to economic progress."

The pastoral letter exhorted the Catholic faithful to "singly or in assemblies make known clearly and loudly to the conflicting parties our collective desire that all armed conflicts should stop and that negotiations for peace be carried out to the negotiating table."

It urged all people—"employee or employer, worker or capitalist, tiller or landowner, poor or rich, female or male, child or adult"—to respect the rights of one another and observe their duty as citizens, "from obeying traffic signals to paying correct taxes."

The CBCP threw its support for regional and provincial peace consultations by the NUC, an activity frowned upon by exiled communist leaders.

It urged government officials to "create an ambience of peace" and "courageously resist those who work against the common good."

Meanwhile, exiled Communist Party founder Jose Ma. Sison continued his criticism of the ongoing peace process.

In a statement from Utrecht, Netherlands, Sison said the government's "use of renegades" to "conjure the illusion of a split" in the dissident movement imperils the prospects of continuing the exploratory talks.

"It is an attempt to weaken the position of the NDF (National Democratic Front) as well as prepare the way for the withdrawal of the (government) from the xploratory talks at the time of their choosing," Sison said.

He said the government strategy may push the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines] into withdrawing from the NDF the authority to talk with the government.

Sison earlier accused President Ramos of financing a plan by former political detainees Ricardo Reyes, Romulo Kintanar and Benjamin de Vera to set up a "legal CPP."

Sison described the three as "renegades" and "outsiders and elements hostile to the CPP."

Defense Secretary Renato S. de Villa belittled Sison's threat to pull out from the planned peace negotiations.

"Sison is only a portion of the whole process. (His) pullout will not make the process collapse," De Villa told reporters shortly before attending a Cabinet meeting yesterday in Malacanang.

De Villa echoed a statement of President Ramos last Monday scoffing at Sison's threat to stay out of the negotiations.

A member of the National Unification Commission, De Villa asserted: "We are definitely going to push through the peace negotiations... Whatever happens."

De Villa also pooh-poohed Sison's claim that the government was trying to "conjure an illusion of a split" in the dissident movement.

"Everybody knows there is a split," the defense chief said. "As to the proportion of the split, that is something that we cannot validate or determine at this time. But what has been determined by us so far is that it is true there is a split, and it is rather serious."

NUC Consults With Senior Military Officers

HK2701125493 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 27 Jan 93

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] The National Unification Commission [NUC] today has made consultations with senior officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, where various aspects of military life as well as social problems were discussed. Foremost among the proposals made by the senior military officers was to let the chief of staff as well as his vice chief and service commanders undergo evaluation by the Commission on Appointments [CA].

A position paper submitted by the ranking officers stressed their stand to totally professionalize the AFP.

[Begin unidentified speaker's recording] The chief of staff, the service commanders and maybe the vice chief of staff should appear before the CA. As a matter of fact, I tend to agree with them. I wanted to file a bill on this only to find out that it will need some Constitutional amendments. [end recording]

Ramos Approves Final Plan for Subic Conversion

HK1601072593 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0200 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos has approved the final plan to convert 300 hectares of the former Subic Naval Base into an industrialized zone. The plan, which is estimated to generate 100,000 jobs in the next five years, was submitted to Ramos by a Taiwanese delegation together with Olongapo City Mayor Richard Gordon, chief of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, which is in charge of Subic's Development. Gordon said the multibillion dollar project will include factories for clothing, electronics, and sports equipment.

Funds for Clark Redevelopment Approved

HK2201054693 Quezon City MALAYA in English 22 Jan 93 pp 11, 12

[Text] Malacanang has approved the allocation of P465 [Philippine pesos] million for the development of Clark Air Base into a civil aviation complex, the Bases Conversation and Development Authority [BCDA] said yesterday.

The Pinatubo Commission, the agency overseeing the rehabilitation and relief operation in areas affected by Mt. Pinatubo eruption will release P165 million within the next few weeks to start cleaning Clark.

The BCDA will infuse P300 million cash equity for the establishment of the Clark Development Corp. which will develop and manage the new aviation complex. BCDA spokesperson Ed Javier said that the P300 million will come from the sale of seven military camps in Metro Manila.

Among the military camps to be sold include the Villamor Air Base, Fort Bonifacio, Bago Bantay, Navy Headquarters, and Camp Panopio.

Javier said that from the sale of Fort Bonifacio alone, the BCDA expects to generate at least P3 billion. The BCDA is planning to convert some parts of Fort Bonifacio into a memorial park.

The BCDA has allocated 1,614 hectares out of the 4,440 hectares total area of Clark into a civil aviation complex. The plan basically adopts the land use proposal in the preliminary study conducted the Pacific Consultants International of Tokyo.

The aviation complex includes 490 hectares for the landing area, 140 hectares for passenger terminal, 50 hectares for air cargo terminal, aircraft maintenance and general aviation, 160 hectares for future expansion, 84 hectares for railways and bus stations and 590 hectares for airport-related facilities and open areas.

BCDA, is optimistic that it can start the operation of the air cargo terminal by the end of the year.

At least 1,020 hectares out of the total base area has been allocated for the special export zone. The government is planning to grant special incentives to companies which intend to relocate to Clark.

The government has also allocated 1,056 hectares for tourist attraction and parks, 310 hectares for housing areas of workers, 50 hectares for the University of the Philippines campus and 400 hectares for the Philippine Air Force.

To further attract investors to relocate to the bases facility, the BCDA is also putting up other infrastructure projects.

The Department of Public Works and Highways will put up roads connecting Clark to Subic, Dinalupihan in Bataan and Metro Manila.

The government will also push through with the construction of Circumferential Road C-5 to facilitate the transport from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to the North Expressway.

Ramos Unveils 5-Year Development Plan

HK2101120193 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 21 Jan 93 p 5

[Report by Marichu A. Villanueva]

[Text] President Ramos yesterday bared that his administration will spend P832 billion [Philippine pesos] to implement the 1993-1998 Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP) to propel the Philippines into a newly industrialized country (NIC) by year 2000.

Out of this amount, P305.5 billion or 52 percent has been allocated for infrastructure development projects and support services in various parts of the country over the next five years.

The priority infrastructure projects under the MTDP, he said, are power plants, roads, seaports, telecommunications.

Mr Ramos had earlier endorsed to Congress for concurrence the MTDP, the framework of which was finalized after Cabinet-Legislative Private Sector workshops at the Palace.

"We intend to use the infrastructure program to pump prime our economy," the President declared.

The President made the announcement after he unveiled the marker of the P567-million Carmona-Ternate-Nasugbu road project connecting the Southern Tagalog provinces of Cavite and Batangas.

The 53.9-kilometer stretch is part of the overall regional tourism development roads program jointly funded by the Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) and the Philippine government.

The President led the inauguration rites which were attended by Japanese Ambassador Hirokazu Arai, Cavite gov. Juanito Remulla, Senators Ramon Revilla of Cavite and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Cabinet members led by Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Jose de Jesus and Defense Secretary Renato de Villa in his capacity as Cabinet Officer for Regional Development (CORD) for Southern Tagalog or region IV provinces.

In his remarks after the unveiling rites, the President said the newly-opened road network is part of a special development program that the government is pursuing under the MTDP in the CALABARZON areas. The acronym CALABARZON stands for Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon which comprise the Southern Tagalog region.

The President noted that the total infrastructure development fund under the MTDP, Southern Tagalog region was the "second biggest recipient" of the allocation. He did not say which region got the most share of the infrastructure fund.

Mr. Ramos said this was in line with his administration's thrust of developing new growth centers outside Metro Manila not only to decongest Metro Manila but also to tap the vast potentials of the Southern Luzon region just at the outskirts of the national capital region.

The Chief Executive said the government will also develop other growth and industrial centers in the Bicol and Cagayan Valley region, including the "Northern Luzon quadrangle" which has the Subic "free port" as its centerpiece of development.

"Our goal is to bring income and jobs to where the majority of our people live which is the countryside," the President pointed out.

To this end, the President vowed that his administration would intensify its efforts to improve further the investment environment in the country in terms of providing more than enough supply of power and energy, telecommunication facilities, among other requirements of local as well as foreign investors and businessmen.

To address the current problem on brownouts hurting business and economy, the President said the government is addressing this through the scheduled completion by the middle of this year the five fast-track power projects and the construction of regular baseload power capacity plants.

The President said that within the next 16 days he will lead the groundbreaking rites for the 700-megawatt oil-fired plant in Pagbilao, Quezon. The $818 million power project is part of the regular baseload project of the state-owned National Power Corp (Napocor).

Another power project lined up for this year, he said, is the 300-MW Calaca 2 coal-fired plant in Batangas through a Japanese financial assistance.

These new power plants will be in addition to the 330-MW Cavite power plant put up by a consortium of Filipino and foreign investors at a total project cost of $275 million.

The President expressed confidence that these additional power plants will provide the power needs at the Luzon grid in pace with the industrialization of the region.

Singapore Bans Entry of Philippine Meat Products

HK1801050093 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 17 Jan 93 p 13

[Report by Edu Lopez]

[Text] Singapore, one of the country's top trading partners, has imposed a ban on the entry of Philippine meat and meat products on suspicion that the dreaded foot-and-mouth disease is plaguing Philippine dairy animals.

In a dispatch from Salvador Quiniquini, the Philippine commercial attache in Singapore, the Philippines was not included in the list of countries accredited as sources of meat and meat products for Singapore.

The Singaporean government was very much concerned about the possible introduction to that country of the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) if Philippine meat and meat products were to be allowed entry.

According to Quiniquini, Singapore's Primary Production Department (PPD) of the Ministry of National Development, has promulgated that the foreign source of meat and meat products has to be free from FMD diseases before it can bring its products to Singapore.

The Philippine Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) says that only Region-IX which comprises Davao, South Cotabato provinces and Region-XII (North Cotabato, Maguindanao and the Lanao provinces) have been declared as FMD-free areas. The rest of the regions have reported the presence of FMD diseases. FMD is caused by a virus which afflicts the ruminants—pig, cattle, carabao and goat.

The Bureau of Export Trade Promotion (BETP) has advised local meat processors and exporters to apply for accreditation with Singapore's PPD before they could export their products to that country.

The application for accreditation which should be sent through the Philippine Meat Inspection Board, must include the following information: layout and site plans, flow charts, source of meat, types of products and volume of production, time and temperature treatments for each product, quality assurance program, staff strength and their qualifications and experience.

Singapore's PPD will then conduct an inspection of the processing plants in the Philippines for interested meat processors and exporters after receiving their applications.

The Philippine Department of Agriculture has already been advised on the PPD's requirements for local processors and exporters.

Some countries which have been accredited by Singapore as sources of meat and meat products include the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, People's Republic of China, Thailand and Malaysia.

Central Bank International Reserves Up 16.7%

HK2601030293 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 26 Jan 93 p 12

[Report by Kenneth V. Nerecina]

[Excerpt] The Central Bank's (CB) gross international reserves (GIR) surpassed the end-December target set at $4.9 billion by about $318,000.

The GIR hit $5.218 billion during the month, up 2.3% from $5.101 in the earlier month. Year on year, GIR posted a 16.7% growth.

Business World computations show that the GIR during the month is sufficient to finance about four months worth of imports of goods and services, estimated at about $1.3 billion monthly.

The expansion in GIR during the last four months of 1992 was for the most part traced to the heavy influx of dollars and sluggish demand for foreign exchange in the local market.

Inclusive of the December level, CB data show that GIR surpassed the $5-billion mark four times, all of which transpired in 1992. GIR hit $5.424 billion in March, $5.081 billion in October, and $5.101 billion in November.

Statistics show that growth in gold holdings, foreign investment and foreign exchange pushed GIR up to its December level. On the other hand, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) declined.

Gold holdings rose 0.55% to $934.6 million from the previous month's $929.5 million. CB foreign investments grew 2.7% to $4.240 billion from $4.127 billion. This component accounted for 81% of international reserves last month. Foreign exchange holdings increased to $42.8 million from $42.7 million. [passage omitted]

Thailand

Paper: Clinton 'Must Be Tough' on Trade

BK2701095393 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 27 Jan 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Clinton's Commitments"]

[Text] After the swearing-in ceremony last week, Bill Clinton became President of the United States, succeeding former President George Bush. The U.S. presidency is a heavy burden for any 46-year-old man like Bill Clinton because the United State is a major power both in the economic and military spheres. Therefore, every U.S. leader since the end of World War II has been expected to maintain U.S. supremacy.

This task is no longer as easy as it once was. At present, the United States is confronting economic difficulties in terms of accumulating a budgetary deficit and a foreign trade deficit, especially with Japan, its close ally in the Far East. As a result, the United States must be tough in dealing with its trading partners because its economic status has a direct impact on its military supremacy and influence in general.

Suffice it to say that the most important and immediate task facing the young U.S. President is building a stronger economy for the United States, reducing the budgetary and trade deficits, and generating more jobs for the American people. He must make serious efforts to come up with some achievements to substantiate the strong criticisms he made during the election campaign against the Bush administration. Failing to do so, Clinton will have trouble getting reelected in the next presidential election.

Trade conflicts between the United States and its trading partners, particularly Japan, are very likely to become more problematic. The United States feels that Japan is practicing unfair trade by refusing to do anything about the trade deficit. With the impression that former Presidents Reagan and Bush were too lenient toward Japan, the U.S. Congress is apparently exerting pressure on Bill Clinton to take drastic measures to force Japan to reduce its trade surplus with the United States.

As for Thailand, it should be prepared to cope with the more stringent trade practices on the part of the United States under the leadership of Bill Clinton. The Clinton administration is likely to pay more attention than the Reagan and Bush administrations to such problems as copyrights and patents, as well as human rights in Burma. The United States may ask Thailand to be more cooperative in exerting pressure on the Burmese military dictatorship. However, Thailand does not have any human rights problem because the Thai Government is elected by the people.

Public Support in Talks with U.S. Urged

BK2401151793 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Doctor Wichai Chokwiwat, secretary general of the Medical Council, believes the United States will concentrate on domestic economic problems once President Bill Clinton takes office, and that will certainly affect trade measures involving Thailand, especially concerning copyrights and patent protection.

The secretary general of the Medical Council said the Thai people must try to protect their interests and support the government's position in future negotiations with the United States.

[Begin Wichai recording] We have complied with the U.S. demand to a certain extent regarding the amendment to our patent law. We have agreed to give patent protection to medical products. In the past, we gave protection only to medical formulas. This means that we had a limit in yielding to the U.S. demand.

We did not agree in giving retroactive protection, for example, and this is what the United States has been trying to push us for.

In previous negotiations, Thailand has been quite flexible. We have yielded to the U.S. demand, but only to a certain extent. We resisted in certain areas, trying our best to protect national interests. Past activities and campaigns to safeguard national interests have been strong. This helped boost the government's bargaining power in the past.

We are certain that the United States will again push for Thailand to comply with its wishes. Therefore, the Thai people must do their best to protect their interests by boosting the position of their legitimately elected government. All concerned sectors, organizations, and agencies, private or public, must try to make concerted efforts to protect the interests of the Thai people.

This will strengthen the position of the Thai Government in future negotiations with the United States. Anyway, we must make reasonable efforts. [end recording]

Ministry Orders Crackdown Border Ban Violators

BK2601042393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Jan 93 p 7

[Text] The Interior Ministry has instructed authorities in provinces bordering Cambodia to take decisive action against any defiance of the border closure imposed since January 1 in support of a United Nations resolution.

A document released at a meeting in Bangkok yesterday urged the stepping up of border patrols, setting up of checkpoints and intelligence units and the arrest of any confirmed offenders.

The document was circulated in a meeting at the Local Administration Department yesterday of assistant governors and district officers stationed in the seven provinces bordering Cambodia: Sisaket, Surin, Ubon Ratchathani, Buri Ram, Prachin Buri, Chanthaburi and Trat.

Officials said a similar meeting of assistant governors and district officers posted in 10 provinces bordering Burma is planned for today.

The document on the Cambodian border situation pointed out that traders in timber and gems would certainly continue illicit activities in defiance of the border closure because of the considerable losses they faced.

Thailand closed "temporary border checkpoints" along the Thai-Cambodian on January 1 [date as published] in support of the November 30 UN Security Council resolution aimed at pressuring a return to the peace process of the intransigent Khmer Rouge.

The resolution endorsed a ban on log exports from Cambodia that was called by Cambodia's Supreme National Council, made up of four previously warring factions.

The resolution also called for an embargo on oil products to Khmer Rouge-held areas.

In the first known violation of the oil embargo, 30,000 litres of diesel oil was seized and a Thai and a Cambodian arrested in Sisaket at the week . [sentence as published]

The call for strict enforcement of the border closure addressed one of several border problems covered by a presentation of policy and practical measures.

Officials of the National Security Council (NSC) joined in the presentation.

The document stressed the insecurity of the Cambodian border situation and urged that precautions be taken to protect lives and property.

"At present fighting between local forces has scaled down. But there remains a variety of armed groups, notably the Khmer Rouge," it said.

Past incidents have resulted in an overspill of shells, causing damage and injuries as well as violating Thai sovereignty, it added.

The document also pointed to problems of border demarcation, banditry, trafficking in war weapons, narcotic drugs, cars and refugees resisting organised repatriation.

The document listed five disputed areas in the demarcation of the 798-kilometre-long Thai-Cambodian border.

These include an area stretching from the border of Sisaket and Surin to the borderline between Buri Ram and Prachin Buri.

Others are situated in Prachin Buri, in Klong Yai District of Trat Province, on Kut Island and on Hill 578.

The site in Prachin Buri was said to be out of line with the treaty calling for the borderline to follow the Si Sophon River to mid-way between the Takoh and Samet passes.

The Kilometre-71 marker in Klong Yai District allegedly was reset in Cambodian territory after the original was destroyed in a move that put in question ownership of a water reservoir built by Thailand.

The dispute on Kut Island was attributed to an overlapping of continental shelf areas declared by both countries.

The problem of Hill 578 stemmed from the Heng Samrin regime's protest to the UN that Thai soldiers had intruded into Cambodian territory, the document said.

Prasong on Upcoming SNC Meeting, Election

BK2701032493 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English GMT 0000 27 Jan 93

[Text] The upcoming meeting of the Supreme National Council, or SNC, of Cambodia on 28 January in Beijing is seen as a significant step towards national reconciliation, leading to the election later this year.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri says he hopes the general election in Cambodia takes place as planned, probably in early May with the presidential election taking place first. The minister sees the presidential and general elections as a prerequisite for lasting peace in Cambodia. He points out that Thailand and ASEAN support the plan and support Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to run for the presidency as he represents the best hope for national reconciliation in Cambodia.

The prince is also internationally recognized as the leader of Cambodia. Squadron Leader Prasong says that he does not think that the Khmer Rouge will obstruct the election as such move can backfire and further isolate the Khmer Rouge. He himself does not want to see the Khmer Rouge isolated. A lasting peace in Cambodia has to come from peaceful coexistence of all factions.

Indian Foreign Secretary To Visit 31 Jan-2 Feb

BK2301011993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Jan 93 p A3

[Text] Indian Foreign Secretary J. N. Dixit will make a three-day visit to Thailand at the end of this month to strengthen bilateral ties, according to Foreign Ministry sources.

He will have talks with the Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Pracha Khunakasem during his Jan 31-Feb 2 visit.

Discussions on bilateral and regional issues will include Cambodia and Burma.

In the past India has supported the Phnom Penh government, a decision which soured relations between Bangkok and New Delhi.

They will also discuss the forthcoming visit of Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to Thailand. The late Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi visited Thailand in 1987.

According to the source both countries are eager to expand co- operation, especially in trade and investment.

Last year, Thailand and India set up a joint commission chaired by their foreign ministers to expand relations.

Dixit will also visit Malaysia.

Officials Ask India To Boost Agricultural Trade

BK2201044593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Jan 93 p B2

[Text] Thai officials have asked their Indian counterparts to promote two-way trade in agricultural products to boost mutual trading.

The proposal was made at the meeting of the Thai-Indian Trade Joint Committee on Jan 7-8 at Cha-am, Phetchburi. The Thai side asked the Indian officials to buy more tapioca flour and rubber from Thailand.

In addition, they also proposed to exchange Thai rice for soy bean meal from India and invited Indian businessmen to join the Gem and Jewelry Fair in Bangkok in March and September.

On their part, the Indians invited Thai investors to the Jewel Yatra, and Indian Engineering Trade Fair in India, and the Indian Engineering Exposition in July in Singapore.

It was also agreed to exchange buying missions between the two nations two or three times every year.

Charae Chutharatkun, director-general of the Foreign Trade Depanment, led the Thai delegation, while Ashok Jha, joint secretary of the Commerce Ministry, led the Indian delegation.

The Thai and Indian officials will talk on the progress of the proposed two-way trade during the Thai officials' visit to India later this month.

Trade Chief: Expanded Indian Trade Agreed

BK2601073493 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Thailand and India have agreed to expand their trade cooperation. Director General of the Foreign Trade Department Chare Chutharattanakun says after the recent 6th meeting of the Thai-Indian Trade Joint Committee that Thailand and India have agreed to boost economic ties.

He says Thailand has asked India to consider Thai rice as a priority whenever India needs to import rice as well as tapioca and rubber. Mr. Chare says the two countries have also agreed to exchange trade representatives at least twice a year. The program is a measure to promote the value of bilateral trading.

Thailand has invited India to participate in a gems and jewelry fair to be held in Bangkok in March and September this year while India invites Thailand to take part in India's jewel fair held annually in January and an engineering fair to be held in March this year, as well as in an Indian engineering exposition to be held in Singapore in July this year.

The two countries have also agreed to entrust the Commerce Ministry or Thailand's Chamber of Commerce Council to deal with problems faced by exporters. India is also interested in joining various power projects in Thailand.

Editorial Discusses India-Pakistan Difficulties

BK2701014993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Jan 93 p A6

[Editorial: "India and Pakistan should keep talking over Kashmir"]

[Text] In a world where wars between nations are now outdated, with the Cold War over, India and Pakistan still have armies that fire at each other with rifles, missiles and heavy artillery. Both countries have fought three wars—two of them over Kashmir—in over four decades and view each other with profound suspicion and distrust.

Pakistan accuses India of building up stocks of weapons-grade plutonium after New Delhi last August test-launched its sophisticated multi-million dollar medium range missile Prithvi for the ninth time. Regional fears were also fuelled when India announced that it was developing the Agni, increasing speculation that the country could be accumulating long-range missiles with nuclear warheads.

Nuclear ambitions

On the other hand, Pakistan's nuclear ambitions too has come under strong suspicion. In 1990, a crucial US$600 million a year in United States' aid was suspended because the White House decided to act on long-held suspicions that Pakistan possesses a nuclear bomb.

New Delhi has long maintained that Islamabad is training and arming militants in Kashmir, and supplying weapons to separatists in Punjab state. In January the former US secretary of state Lawrence Eagleburger warned that the United States was keeping Pakistan under review as a country that might be added to its list of states sponsoring terrorism because of its alleged support for extremists in India. The six nations that are currently on the US terrorism list are Libya, Iran, Syria, North Korea, Iraq and Cuba.

But India's gross human rights abuses in Kashmir, too, have not gone unnoticed and the London-based Amnesty International has yet to receive official permission from New Delhi to conduct investigations into claims of torture by Indian authorities on Muslims in that state.

So far, close to 9,000 Kashmiris have died in the three-year rebellion against Indian rule and in early January, the Indian police admitted that paramilitary security forces killed 53 people and torched scores of buildings in the town of Sopore in revenge for an attack by anti-Indian militants.

Clearly, unless the issue of Kashmir is resolved between India and Pakistan, the looming threat of another war, this time fought with nuclear weapons can never be discounted. The impending question now is whether there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Last August, there was a glimmer of hope when the foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan held talks in New Delhi, and the mere fact that Kashmir was included in the agenda was a breakthrough in itself. For starters, both sides agreed to disengage troops on the disputed 6,000 metres-high Siachen glacier in the Himalayas in which India spends Rs50 million [rupees] (US$1.94 million) a day sustaining Operation Meghdoot (sky-bound message). Pakistan's costs are marginally less as its troops are stationed about 460 metres lower. However, the destruction of the 464-year-old Babri Mosque in Ayodhya in December threatened to derail whatever limited progress achieved in August, with India accusing Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence of helping to incite riots among Muslims and Hindus in New Delhi. Pakistan retaliated by demanding that India cut down its diplomatic staff in the country.

British Prime Minister John Major, who leaves New Delhi today, after attending the country's Republic Day celebrations as a state guest, urged a dialogue between India and Pakistan and offered to mediate between the nations, adding that Kashmir was a matter of concern for "all India's friends and for all Pakistan's friends."

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif responded immediately, expressing the hope that Major's personal interest in the matter "would lead to a way out of the present impasse." Though new Indian Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh said mediation by Britain is not the answer, he acknowledged the fact that the only solution to the Kashmir issue lies in bilateral negotiations in accordance with the 1972 Simla Agreement, formulated by the late Indira Gandhi and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

No double standards

The pledges made in the August bilateral talks between India and Pakistan to disengage troops on the Siachen glacier should be followed up sincerely.

The West should also not apply double standards when it comes to the issue of nuclearization in South Asia. While Pakistan has been singled out and castigated by the United States for its overambitious nuclear programme, India has been left off the hook.

For the sake of peace in South Asia, in a giant stride towards a willingness in resolving the Kashmir issue, New Delhi should sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). If India fails to do so, it will be regarded as a nuclear threat in the region, bearing the fact that China was a recent signatory and Pakistan has agreed to sign the NPT simultaneously with New Delhi.

Premier Comments on Saudi Investigation

BK2701022193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Jan 93 p A2

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai yesterday said the delayed investigations into the murders of Saudi Embassy officials and the related disappearance of a Saudi businessman in early 1990 will be completed during the term of his government.

Chuan said he believed all these cases involved conflicts of interest.

"It's not easy to conclude the investigations promptly. A major problem is how to make Saudi Arabia understand what we are trying to do," he said.

The premier said he did not think opposition parties will cite the delay in the investigations of the Saudi cases to attack the government. The probes did not just happen during the term of the current government but have been dragging on for a long time, he said.

Police are under pressure to wrap up the investigations into the murders of three Saudi Embassy officials on Feb 1, 1990 and the ensuing disappearance of a Saudi businessman, Muhammad al-Ruwayli, after Saudi Arabia complained with the Foreign Ministry over the progress of the police work.

Thai-Saudi relations was also strained by another case involving the disappearance of some of the jewellery that police seized in early 1990 from a Thai worker who had stolen it from a Saudi palace.

In the latest development of the jewellery case, police said they have just received a video tape and some file pictures of the stolen valuables sent to the Thai government by Saudi Arabia in June 1990.

The tape and pictures were sent with a letter that said only 30 per cent of the stolen jewellery was returned to Saudi Arabia. The letter also urged the government to retrieve the remaining 70 per cent of the stolen valuables.

Prime Minister's Secretary General Thawat Wichaidit yesterday said the items were received by the Prime Minister's Office during the term of ex-premier Chatchai Chunhawan.

Botwonsak Uwanno, ex-secretary general to Chatchai, yesterday explained to Thawat that the Chatchai government already informed the Police Department to speed up the investigation into the jewellery case immediately after it received the letter from Saudi Arabia in June. A copy of the letter was also sent to the department, he said.

Police were also told to pick up the video tape and the pictures from the PM's Office but nobody turned up then, he said.

Cabinet To Ban 'Controversial' Post-Coup Laws

BK2701062193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Two post-coup orders that force television and radio stations to relay official news broadcasts—used to brand pro-democracy protesters as traitors in the May demonstrations—are to be scrapped.

The Cabinet yesterday gave its approval in principle to abolish the controversial orders that were carried out by the powerful Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Communications and Transport.

Order No 15 and Order No 17 of the National Reform Council, which seized power after the political turbulence in October 1976, put TV and radio stations under the control of the Broadcasting Directing Board.

The board was dissolved in the wake of the political crisis last May.

Order No 15 requires all radio stations to hook up to Radio Thailand for official news broadcasts four times a day.

The other order empowers the government to make all TV stations form a television pool to broadcast any programme deemed necessary.

Calls for the abrogation of the two orders grew after the May bloodbath. During the crisis, TV and radio described pro-democracy demonstrators as troublemakers, accused politicians leading the campaign of being traitors, and allegedly tried to conceal facts about mounting civilian casualties resulting from the brutal military crackdown.

Ministry Identifies Border Problems With Burma

BK2701075393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] The Interior Ministry, host of a meeting in Bangkok yesterday of authorities stationed along the western border with Burma, has identified Burmese dissident groups and students as among Thai-Burmese border problems.

A document circulated at the gathering of assistant governors and district officers also pointed to problems of seasonal fighting between Rangoon troops and ethnic minorities, border demarcation, illegal immigrants, drug trafficking and trade.

The assistant governors and district officers came from 10 provinces along what is Thailand's longest border with a neighbouring country. Thailand also borders with Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia.

An estimated 2,000 Burmese students who fled violent suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in Rangoon in August 1988, form part of a 15,000-strong population encamped along the Burmese border. The students joined Burmese minority groups and civilian dependents who have been in the area for decades.

There is no estimate of the presence on the border of Burmese "anti-government" groups—an apparent reference to the relatively recent opponents of the ruling military junta in Rangoon.

The Interior Ministry document at the same time presented general policy guidelines for maintaining security along the country's borders.

These call for:

—promotion of "good local relations" of "formal and informal" nature.

—protection of the lives and property of border residents

—resistance against illegal immigration

—prevention and suppression of trafficking in war weapons and narcotic drugs

—preservation of border demarcation lines by land and sea so as to avoid loss in case of any dispute with neighbouring countries.

The document described the promotion of good relations with neighbouring countries, protection of life and property of Thai border residents and suppression of activities endangering national security as the three main components of the policy.

It described activities such as trafficking in war weapons and narcotic drugs, raids, robbery of cars and motorcycles, and illegal immigration as national security threats.

Vietnam

Foreign Minister Supports Sihanouk

BK2601155993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam by VNA correspondent on the first anniversary of the signing of the Vietnam-Cambodia joint communique; date, place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] [correspondent] One year ago, comrade minister, you visited Cambodia to sign the Vietnam-Cambodia Joint Communique with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC]. Will you please appraise results in implementing the Paris Peace Accord on Cambodia and the development of Vietnam-Cambodia relations?

[Nguyen Manh Cam] During the past year, implementation of the Paris Peace Accord was carried out in a complicated manner. Whereas implementation of the accord was relatively smooth at the beginning, the situation began to deteriorate in the second phase, which began on 13 June 1992. This was due to the sabotage activities of the Democratic Kampuchea faction, which rejected the Cambodian people's aspirations and the wish of the people in the region and the world, as well as UN Security Council resolutions.

This has created a dangerous situation and a new challenge to the peace process in Cambodia and stability in the region. This situation requires the United Nations, countries that signed the Paris Peace Accord, and other Cambodian factions to take positive and strong measures to force Democratic Kampuchea to participate in the peace process in Cambodia, thereby ensuring serious implementation of the Paris Peace Accord, which will result in the building of a peaceful, independent, neutral, nonaligned, and prosperous Cambodian nation, while ensuring stability in the region. Vietnam has always honored the guiding principles in relations between the two countries which were stipulated in the Vietnam-Cambodia Joint Communique dated 25 January 1992. These are rational principles in conformity with Vietnam's long-term policy toward neigboring Cambodia.

[Correspondent] Sources from Cambodia say there will be a presidential election and National Assembly elections in Cambodia, and that Prince Norodom Sihanouk will be a presidential candidate. Would you please comment on this issue?

[Nguyen Manh Cam] As a signer of the Paris Peace Accord, the SRV unswervingly honors and seriously implements all provisions related to Vietnam. It has supported Cambodian factions in implementing national reconciliation in order to build a Cambodian nation of peace, independence, neutrality, and nonalignment; befriending all nations and thus contributing to restoring peace, stability, and cooperation in Southeast Asia. Whether there is a presidential election in Cambodia depends on the decision of the Cambodian people. Vietnam totally respects the Cambodian people's decision on this issue.

However, we highly appraise the very important role of Prince Sihanouk in the cause of national reconciliation in Cambodia, as well as in maintaining and strengthening the good-neighborly relations between Cambodia and Vietnam. Vietnam supports the candidacy of Prince Sihanouk for the presidency and hopes that if he wins in the election he will contribute more actively to peace and prosperity in Cambodia as well as to strengthening the traditional friendship between Vietnam and Cambodia.

Further on Normalizing Relations With U.S.

BK2601114693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Vietnam said no strings should be attached to the normalization of relations with the United States. A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said that in an interview with VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY on Monday, 25 January. We now bring you excerpt of this interview and developments in the Vietnam-U.S. relations.

Commenting on the statement made by U.S. Under Secretary State Clifton Wharton last Friday that President Clinton planned to maintain former President Bush's preconditions for normalizing U.S. relations with Vietnam, the spokesman said: Vietnam always maintains that state-to-state relations should be based on the basis of mutual respect, equality, mutual interest, and non-interference in one another's internal affairs. He stressed that proceeding from this principle. Vietnam considers that no strings should be attached to the normalization of its relations to the United States.

Vietnam is willing to normalize relations with the United States because that is what both peoples are interested in and wish for, and because that would serve peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the whole world, the spokesman added.

Asked about the MIA issue, he said that Vietnam viewed it as a purely humanitarian issue, not related to any political problems. This was what Vietnam and the United States agreed upon during the visit of a U.S. presidential envoy in 1987, the spokesman recalled, adding that Vietnam had given an active cooperation in this humanitarian issue and would continue to do so. We hope the United States will stick to the spirit of what it has agreed with Vietnam, he said.

Realities have shown that recently, encouraging progress has been made in the Vietnam-U.S. relations. Vietnam always expresses its willingness to speed up the process of normalizing relations between the two countries. This has been highly valued by the American political circle and the world public. Vietnam has been actively cooperating with the United States in the MIA issue. Public opinion holds that the Washington administration has been too slow in responding to the goodwill of the American people, and now it has advanced preconditions for normalizing U.S. relations with Vietnam. These conditions did not conform with the trend of the era, first of all not to meet the aspiration of the people especially the American business circle.

'Headlong' Economic 'Rush' Discussed

BK2601045793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Jan 93 p 14

[Report by Kunda Dixit from Hanoi]

[Text] Going by patterns of economic collapse in other ex-Soviet bloc countries, Vietnam should have by now been crippled by hyper-inflation, food shortages and social unrest. But the communist Southeast Asian nation has not only managed to save itself from ruin, but it is also prospering and is poised to join the exclusive pack of East Asian tiger economies.

In late 1990, Vietnam and Cuba were in the same boat. Moscow propped the economies of both countries with heavy subsidies, over 80 percent of trade of the two states was with the Soviet bloc, and a US-led economic embargo had squelched prospects of a Cuban or Vietnamese takeoff.

Unlike Havana, Hanoi has moved quicker to diversify trade. It has successfully implemented strict measures to curb inflation, unshackled a moribund centrally planned economy and vigorously pursued foreign investment to make up for the loss of the annual $1-billion aid from the Soviet Union.

Vietnamese officials say privately that their old mentors in Moscow have got things backwards. Lifting the lid on full-scale political freedom first has brought instability which in turn has hurt investments and made economic reforms ineffective.

Inspired by Moscow, Vietnam launched its own brand of perestroika (called "doi moi") back in 1986, but its economy did not really take off until the National Assembly enacted a new constitution last year to safeguard foreign investment.

Foreign firms have since poured in $3.5 billion. In the first nine months of 1992 alone, investors brought in $1 billion, according to the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, the government office in charge of approving foreign investment.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are still barred from lending to Vietnam because of US sanctions, but this has not stopped them from giving Vietnamese planners a lot of free advice, and they seem delighted with the result. Said IMF chief Michel Camdessus earlier this year: "We may have another tiger in Asia, I feel pretty confident of that."

According to recent official statistics, Vietnam's Gross National Product was expected to grow by 5.3 percent in 1992. Inflation was down from 70 percent in 1991 to 15 percent last year. Radical reforms in land tenancy laws have transformed Vietnam's agriculture.

The country is now the world's third largest exporter of rice after the United States and Thailand. Grain production topped 23 million tons in the first nine months of 1992—10 percent more than in the same period of the previous year.

Now, the government of reformist Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet is trying to further relax foreign investment rules and offer tax incentives to encourage foreign companies interested in upgrading Vietnam's run-down roads, bridges and railways.

Foreign governments and aid agencies like the United Nations Development Programme are helping Vietnam in its transition to a market economy to develop the country's legal system, reform financial and banking regulations.

Vietnamese officials say they still face a cash shortage to fund development projects and are eagerly awaiting the scrapping of US sanctions. Former president George Bush renewed the embargo for another year in September.

A breakthrough in November on the issue of US servicemen missing in action in the Vietnam war brightened prospects for a normalisation of relations between the two countries. The next month Washington rewarded Hanoi by allowing some US firms to sign contracts with Vietnamese companies.

There are further signs that the US-led embargo is eroding. Japan has resumed aid to Vietnam with a $370-million soft loan. In fact, Japanese firms have been quietly making contacts here to have a headstart on US firms once sanctions are lifted.

Vietnam's headlong rush into a free market is not without its domestic detractors. Military hardliners see the free market as "imperialist and reactionary conspiracy" to bring spies and AIDS into the country. But officials say there is consensus that there should be economic reforms—the only debate is about its pace.

Some observers say although the Communist Party claims credit for Vietnam's turnaround, reforms have actually worked by accident—partly because of the annual $1 billion income from crude oil exports and influx of East Asian business.

Government officials admit the economic boom is still fragile and are particularly worried about unemployment as state firms trim workers and the huge 1.5-million strong army is demobilised.

They say emphasis on market-oriented reforms will not push them to abandon social welfare programmes that have given Vietnam a 96 percent literacy rate and health care service that other developing countries can only aspire for.

With the Communist Party firmly in the saddle, Vietnam's rulers have discarded the centrally planned economic model for the authoritarian capitalism of a success story closer to home—Singapore.

The new role model for Vietnamese leaders is Lee Kuan Yew, the architect of Singapore's economic miracle. Premier Vo Van Kiet met Mr Lee at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland last year and invited Singapore's retired leader to be his country's economic adviser.

Leaders' 17-24 Jan Tet Visits Reported

BK2601105793

[Editorial Report] Hanoi Television Network in Vietnamese at 1200 GMT on 17, 18, 21, 23, and 24 January carries reports on visits to various establishments and localities by Vietnamese leaders on the occasion of the Tet lunar new year holiday.

Hanoi Television Network in Vietnamese at 1200 GMT on 17 January carries a four-minute report saying that "on 16 January Comrade Le Duc Anh, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau and president of the state, visited the General Telecommunications Corporation where he extended Tet greetings to personnel of the corporation and attended the inauguration of a disk antenna for the Hanoi-Quang Nam-Danang television link."

After he was briefed by the comrade director general of the corporation on the activities of the telecommunications sector in recent years, "President Le Duc Anh warmly commended cadres, workers, and personnel of the telecommunications sector for having grappled quickly with advanced science to meet the needs arising from national economic development and the country's renovation process."

At a get-together with representatives of the cadres and workers of the entire sector, President Le Duc Anh amiably chatted with and extended Tet greetings to these people. "President Le Duc Anh also conveyed his Tet greetings by telephone to the people and combatants in a number of provinces throughout the country, as well as to soldiers stationed on the Truong Sa [Spratly] archipelago."

Hanoi Television Network in Vietnamese at 1200 GMT on 18 January carries a four-minute report saying that "on the morning of 18 January Comrade Le Duc Anh, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau and president of the state, visited and extended Tet greetings to cadres, workers, and personnel of the Vietnamese railway sector. Accompanying him was Comrade Nguyen Viet Dung, director of the office of the state president.

"President Le Duc Anh was warmly welcomed by Comrade Bui Danh Luu, minister of communications and transportation; Comrade Doan Van Phuong, director general of the union of Vietnamese railway enterprises; and many leaders of the railway sector."

Through the sector's signal and liaison system, the president learned that services had been improved for train passengers on the occasion of Tet by the Saigon and Dong Dang railway stations.

"President Le Duc Anh also visited Hanoi railway stations where he was briefed by the comrades in charge of the stations on work in preparation for train passengers travelling during the lunar new year of the rooster. He extended Tet greetings to cadres, workers, and personnel of the station and thoughtfully inquired about their health conditions."

Hanoi Television Network in Vietnamese at 1200 GMT on 21 January carries a one-minute report saying that "on the occasion of the lunar new year of the rooster, Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau, recently visited and extended Tet greetings to the people of various nationalities in Hoa Binh Province.

"Speaking to a number of families of veteran and revolutionary cadres, war invalids, and fallen combatants, Comrade Vu Oanh expressed the profound gratitude of the party and government to the people of various nationalities in Hoa Binh for their valuable contributions to the revolutionary undertaking, and commended Hoa Binh Province for its initial achievements in the economic and social fields in 1992.

"During the visit, Comrade Vu Oanh also worked with the provincial party committee and people's committee on the basic targets and socioeconomic tasks for the province in 1993."

Hanoi Television Network in Vietnamese at 1200 GMT on 23 January carries a three-minute report saying that "on 20 January Comrade Le Phuoc Tho, Political Bureau member and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, visited and extended Tet greetings to the people of all nationalities in Tuyen Quang Province on behalf of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau. He was warmly welcomed by the provincial party committee, people's council, people's committee, heads of various organs and sectors, senior cadres, revolutionary veterans and benefactors, and representatives of the people of all nationalities in the province."

After he was briefed by Comrade Ha Thi Khiet, member of the Party Central Committee and secretary of the provincial party committee, on the province's socioeconomic situation in 1992 and major socioeconomic programs for 1993, "Comrade Le Phuoc Tho spoke highly of the province's major achievements, such as quickly undergoing changes and successfully fulfilling all major targets. He also wished the party organization and people of all nationalities of Tuyen Quang many even greater successes in the new year, thus contributing worthily to the process of renovating the country.

"On the same day, Comrade Le Phuoc Tho paid a visit and extended Tet greetings to cadres and the people of all nationalities in Vinh Phu Province. He warmly commended the party organization and people of all nationalities of Vinh Phu for their achievements in 1992.

"Comrade Le Phuoc Tho also visited and extended Tet greetings to cadres and workers at the Bai Bang Paper Corporation. Accompanying him were Comrade Tran Van Dang, member of the Party Central Committee and secretary of the provincial party committee; Comrade Bui Vu Hai, chairman of the provincial people's committee; and many other comrades." Later, he toured a number of establishments in Vinh Phu.

Hanoi Television Network in Vietnamese at 1200 GMT on 24 January carries a two-minute report saying that "on the first day of the lunar new year of the rooster, Comrade Le Phuoc Tho, Political Bureau member and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and head of its Organization Department, visited and extended Tet greetings to cadres and the people of Ha Tay Province.

"Comrade Nguyen Dinh So, member of the Party Central Committee and secretary of the provincial party committee, briefed Comrade Le Phuoc Tho on the results obtained by the province from one year of socioeconomic development and consolidation of national defense and security, as well as on its orientations for economic development in 1993."

Do Muoi's Tet Visits Reported

BK2601105393

[Editorial Report] Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese on 20, 21, and 22 January carries the following reports on Do Muoi's Tet visits to the Navy and various establishments, including the Tran Quoc Pagoda, in Hanoi:

At 1400 GMT on 20 January the radio carries a nine-minute report that: "Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Party Central Committee, paid a Tet visit to the Navy on 19 January. He was accompanied by Dao Duy Tung, Political Bureau member and secretary of the Party Central Committee; Senior Lieutenant General Dao Dinh Luyen, member of the Party Central Committee and chief of the General Staff of the Vietnamese People's Army; and Comrade Le Danh Suong, member of the Party Central Committee and secretary of the Haiphong Municipal Party Committee. Comrade Do Muoi was welcomed at the Naval Command by Vice Admiral Le Van Xuan, deputy commander of the Navy," and other officials.

"At the Naval Command, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi personally had a telephone conversation with troops stationed on the Spratly archipelago. Simultaneously, tens of islands called the Naval Command, energetically reporting to the comrade general secretary on the spring-welcoming mood of the garrison troops and their vigilance in defending the fatherland's sovereignty over various islets."

In his telephone greetings to the island defenders, Do Muoi said: "I wish you, comrades, another happy Tet. It is also my wish that, embarking on the New Year, you will be able to score more new successes and new achievements in building and defending our sovereignty over the archipelago so it will forever remain a sacred part of our beloved Vietnamese fatherland."

In his reply, one of the callers said: "On the occasion of the 1993 Year of the Rooster, we the troops stationed on the Spratly archipelago wish the comrade general secretary and all comrades in the Party Central Committee and the Political Bureau good health, happiness, and success in directing the people to effectively carry out the renovation undertaking and the resolution of the Seventh Party Congress."

Admiral Le Van Xuan welcomed Do Muoi with a speech in which he said: "The Vietnamese People's Navy will always engrave deeply in its heart the solicitous advice of the comrade general secretary. We pledge that we will always remain firm and persistent in the face of all ordeals, will be absolutely loyal to the socialist goals and the renovation undertaking, and will continue to have confidence in the leadership of the Party Central Committee with the esteemed comrade general secretary as its head. We are determined to join the entire party, army, and people in protecting socialism, the Communist Party of Vietnam, and those revolutonary gains achieved by our people so far."

At 1100 GMT on 21 January the radio broadcasts a five-minute report that: "On the morning of 21 January or the day before the Year-of-the-Rooster Tet eve, Comrade General Secetary Do Muoi paid a Tet visit to the Hanoi Nursing Center for the Elders, the 103d Military Hospital, and the Electronics Corporation," and that "he was accompanied by Comrade Le At Hoi, chairman of the Hanoi Municipal People's Committee; Le Xuan Tung, deputy secretary of the Hanoi Municipal Party Standing Committee; Nguyen Trong Nhan, minister of public health; and Tran Thi Tam Dan, vice chairperson of the Hanoi Municipal People's Committee."

Founded in 1977, the Hanoi Nursing Center for the Elders is a place where a total of 199 parents of fallen heroes and homeless retirees are cared for. Addressing the residents, the Comrade General Secretary said: "Our party, state, and people will forever remember the great deeds of those parents whose sons have dedicated their lives to the struggle to regain and defend national independence and achieve freedom and happiness for the people."

At the 103d Military Hospital, after hearing Prof. Le The Trung, director of the hospital, give a briefing on the activities of the hospital, "Comrade Do Muoi commended the hospital for its important contributions to the cause of developing Vietnamese traditional medicine. The comrade expressed the hope that cadres, employees, physicians, and doctors of the hospital would develop their tradition as Uncle Ho's soldiers in undergoing training, conducting scientific research, and offering ever-better medical treatment. He urged them to comply with Uncle Ho's advice that a competent doctor must behave like a good mother."

On the afternoon of 21 January, Comrade Do Muoi paid a Tet visit to the Hanel Electronics Corporation in Hanoi. "Addressing personnel of the corporation, the comrade general secretary expressed his satisfaction over the rags-to-riches growth of this coporation. He expressed the belief that selection of the electronics sector as a spearheard industry for Hanoi is a step in the right direction. He advised the corporation to have a far-reaching vision, and to work out a program to develop the electronics industry in various respects. He wished the corporation prosperity and profitable business."

At 1100 GMT on 22 January the radio carries a five-minute report, saying that "this morning, 22 January, Tet Eve, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi paid a Tet visit to the Tran Quoc Pagoda, the Quoc Tu Giam Cultural Complex in the Temple of Culture, and the Mai Dich Entertainment Workers Complex in Hanoi. Accompanying the comrade general secetary were Comrade Nguyen Khanh, deputy prime minister; Tran Hoan, minister of culture and information; Vu Quang, head of the Party Central Committee Civilian Proselyting Department; and Le Xuan Tung, deputy secretary of the Hanoi Municipal Party Committee."

The comrade general secretary was welcomed on his arrival at the Tran Quoc Pagoda by Senior Monk Kim Cuong Tu, vice chairman of the Vietnam Buddhist Church Standing Committee. The comrade offered incense homage at the great hall and addressed those monks, nuns, and Buddhist laymen present.

"He said: During the years of the war of resistance, the imperialists and reactionaries sought to sow division and hatred among religions and ethnic groups. However, they failed in this attempt. Nowadays, our party and state policy toward religions has been solemnly incribed in the new constitution. This policy calls for freedom of theism [tuwj do tins nguowngx cos thaanf] and freedom of atheism [tuwj do voo thaanf]. Therefore, all are free to choose theism or atheism. All our people are children of the Lac Hong race and citizens of the independent and sovereign Vietnam and are united in the task of national construction and defense.

"The comrade general secretary went on: The ideal of Buddhism is compassion and that of Christianity is mercy. Other religions also care for the people, working for a plentiful, liberal, and happy life without any oppression and social injustices. This is also the ideal of socialism, which is being practiced in our country in line with Ho Chi Minh thought.

"I earnestly appeal to all Buddhist dignitaries and laymen, as well as to the dignitaries and laymen of other religions, to intensify the movement to do good things in both ordinary and religious life and to be united with the entire people in national construction, trying to work for a prosperous people, a powerful country, and a civilized society.

"On behalf of the party, the state, and the people nationwide, allow me to ask the senior monk and those present to pass on to all the Buddhist laymen, monks, and nuns at home and abroad my best wishes for a peaceful and progressive spring.

"I hope that all the overseas Vietnamese Buddhist laymen will always think of their fatherland and do their utmost to contribute to building a prosperous and harmonious country.

"Also on this occasion, I cordially extend my new year greetings to all the dignitaries and laymen of other religions in the country."

Also on the morning of the Tet eve, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi paid a visit to the the Quoc Tu Giam Temple of Culture and the Van Mieu Cultural Center. He offered incense homage at the grand hall of the Temple of Culture and chatted with various visitors at the temple.

"He said: The Quoc Tu Giam Temple of Culture is a cultural symbol of Vietnam and also a most important part of our historical heritage, symbolic of Hanoi and the country as a whole."

On the same morning "Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi paid a Tet visit to the Mai Dich Entertainment Workers Complex where he met and chatted with leaders and personnel of various art troupes. The comrade expressed the wish that these art troupes and their personnel would make greater contributions to modern art performance for the sake of the party's cause of renovation and modernization."

Australian Ambassador Gives National Day Message

BK2701092093 Hanoi VNA in English 1341 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 26— 'The Australian Government and people are committed', declared Australian Ambassador Michael John Potts in a televised address on Vietnam television on the occasion of Australia's national day today.

Twenty years ago this year, Australia established diplomatic relations with the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and established its embassy in Hanoi. During that period, we have developed quite close relations with Vietnam and we are pleased at the state of the bilateral relationship.

At a political level, there is now quite close contact between our two governments. Over the past year, some five federal ministers and four state ministers have visited Vietnam, there have been corresponding visits in the opposite direction and we are looking forward to a high-level visit to Vietnam and have taken a keen interest in Vietnam's open door economic policies. Australian investment in this country is very considerable already, but is set to rise as BHP petroleum begins to develop the Dai Hung oil field. Our companies are active in many parts of the country and I hope that their operations will benefit the people of those areas.

Our relations in other areas are prospering as well. Over the years, many young Vietnamese have had professional training in Australia and the numbers are continuing to rise. Our program of development cooperation is now under way and we are in different parts of Vietnam, in fields such as public health, infrastructure and human and natural resources. In the cultural field, we are no longer strangers to each other. Many Australian artists and performers have visited Vietnam and there have been a number of exchanges in the opposite direction. There has been an encouraging growth of cooperation in higher education.

All of this activity has helped to transform our relations to the point where both sides can take some satisfaction. Australia is conscious of Vietnam's history and of its problems, but we are also very aware of Vietnam's dynamism and of its potential, both in terms of economic development and in terms of its contribution to regional stability and cohesion. It is for that reason that we have supported and welcomed Vietnam's development of its relations with its neighbours, especially the members of ASEAN.